FBIS DAILY REPORT CONTENTS

Middle East & North Africa

Vol V No 36 *22 February 1978*

INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

VOP Stresses Importance of Arab-Soviet Coordination A 1 1/A6

ARABIAN PENINSULA

SAUDI ARABIA

King Khalid Urges Arab States To Support Somalia C 1 1/A7

UAE

Petroleum Minister Discusses Oil Price Increase C 1 1/A7

BRIEFS

PDRY Minister to Iraq; New Ambassadors in Bahrain; Comoro Islands Delegation C 2 1/A8

EGYPT

Attention Continues To Focus on Cyprus Events D 1 1/A9
As-Sadat Receives Report D 1 1/A9
Steps To Withdraw From Cyprus D 1 1/A9
Salim Receives Cyprus Ambassador D 1 1/A9
Kamil Comments on Terrorism D 1 1/A9
Shock Force Commander Interviewed D 2 1/A10
Funeral of Larnaca Commandos D 3 1/A11
As-Sadat Addresses Shock Units D 4 1/A12
As-Sadat Press Conference D 6 1/A14
Shock Forces Commander Promoted D 6 1/A14
Cairo Press Comment D 7 1/B1
Musa Sabri Mourns As-Siba'i [AL-AKHBAR 20 Feb 78] D 9 1/B3
Ambassador To Return to Cairo D 10 1/B4
As-Sadat Grants Interview to OCTOBER Magazine D 10 1/B4
Foreign Ministry Official Comments on U.S. Arms D 16 1/B10
Egypt, U.S. Reportedly To Step Up Military Cooperation D 17 1/B11
Al-Jamasi Will Not Attend Abu Dhabi Arms Meeting D 18 1/B12
Somali Foreign Minister Arrives in Cairo D 18 1/B12
Mubarak Receives Foreign Minister D 18 1/B12
Ghali Receives Siad Barre Message D 18 1/B12
AL-AHRAM: Egypt To Hold 'Important Contacts' on Horn D 18 1/B12

IRAQ

Bulgaria, Iraq Sign Cooperation Agreement	E	1	1/B14
GDR National Front Delegation Arrives in Baghdad	E	1	1/B14
Lebanese Nationalist Movement Official Ends Visit	E	1	1/B14
PDRY Industry Minister Concludes Visit	E	1	1/B14
Comoro Islands' Finance Minister Concludes Visit	E	2	1/C1
Pakistani Air Force Commander Concludes Visit	E	2	1/C1
Eritrean Official Concludes Official Visit	E	2	1/C1
Iranian Economic Delegation Arrives in Baghdad	E	3	1/C2
Bulgarian Women's Delegation Concludes Visit	E	3	1/C2
AAPSO Delegation Returns From Nicosia Meeting	E	3	1/C2
Transport Minister Returns From Jordanian Visit	E	3	1/C2
Briefs: Air Agreement With Kuwait	E	3	1/C2

JORDAN

AD-DUSTUR Interviews West Bank Mayor Bishara Dawud [19 Feb 78]	F	1	1/C3
Commander in Chief of Armed Forces Leaves for Spain	F	1	1/C3

LEBANON

Nationalist Movement Issues Statement of Warning	G	1	1/C4
Ba'th Official on Conditions for Lebanon's Stability	G	1	1/C4
INA: President Sarkis To Visit Damascus	G	2	1/C5
Defense Minister Butrus Meets Army Commanders	G	3	1/C6
Joint Forces Central Command Discusses Situation	G	3	1/C6

SYRIA

Press Comment on Al-Asad's Trip, Atherton's Return	H	1	1/C7
TISHRIN Comments on Al-Asad's Visit	H	2	1/C8
Northern Lebanese Borders Opened to Transit Trucks	H	2	1/C8
Industry Minister Returns Home From New Delhi	H	3	1/C9
Syria To Host Next Confrontation Conference	H	3	1/C9
Syrian-Romanian Economic Talks Resume in Damascus	H	3	1/C9
Talks Conclude	H	3	1/C9

NORTH AFRICA

LIBYA

Al-Qadhdhafi Denounces As-Sadat's Peace Initiative [Hamburg DER SPIEGEL 20 Feb 78]	I	1	1/C10
Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Sudanese, Chad Envoys	I	7	1/D2
Libya, Sudan Work Toward Cease-Fire in Chad	I	8	1/D3
Libyan News Agency: Chad Cease-Fire in Force	I	8	1/D3
Chadian Delegation Departs Libya After Talks	I	8	1/D3
Sudanese Envoy Departs Libya After Talks	I	8	1/D3
Foreign Secretary Receives Madagascar Foreign Minister	I	8	1/D3

ISRAEL

Atherton Meets Officials; Comments Reported	N	1	1/D4
Atherton, Dayan Comment	N	1	1/D4
Begin Discusses Talks	N	1	1/D4
POST Assessment [22 Feb 78]	N	2	1/D5
Press Comments	N	2	1/D5
Peres Discusses Husayn's Role in Peace Talks	N	3	1/D6
DMC Voices Opposition to Settlements at This Time	N	3	1/D6
Begin Tells Carter Dayan, Weizman Will Accompany Him	N	5	1/D8
Exploration for Oil Continues Near At Tur	N	5	1/D8
Egyptians Harass Ships En Route to Elat via Suez Canal [AL HAMISHMAR 20 Feb 78]	N	5	1/D8
HA'AREZ Scores Cyprus Stance on AAPSO Terrorist Incident [21 Feb 78]	N	6	1/D9
DAVAR Commentator on Succession Struggle in Begin Cabinet [17 Feb 78]	N	6	1/D9

SOUTH ASIA

AFGHANISTAN

President Daud Leaves for Visit to Yugoslavia	S	1	1/D12
Report Issued on Assassination of Planning Minister	S	1	1/D12

INDIA

Desai Addresses Janata on Eve of Parliament Session	S	2	1/D13
Vajpayee Comments on U.S. Uranium, Pakistani Visas	S	3	1/D14
Pakistani Agriculture Adviser Arrives for Visit	S	3	1/D14
Chinese Trade Delegation Visits Madras	S	4	1/E1

PAKISTAN

PRC Friendship Delegation Arrives in Islamabad	S	4	1/E1
Meets Agha Shahi	S	4	1/E1

NEPAL

Koirala Acquitted in One of Seven Cases	S	4	1/E1

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VOP STRESSES IMPORTANCE OF ARAB-SOVIET COORDINATION

JN.71839Y Voice of Palestine [Clandestine] in Arabic to the Arab World 1430 GMT 17 Feb 78 JN

[Unattributed Commentary]

[Text] At the banquet held in honor of Maj 'Abd as-Salam Jallud, Soviet Premier Aleksey Kosygin said: Achieving a just settlement in the Middle East is one of the most important international tasks. The legitimacy of the rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to set up their own state, must be recognized by everyone who respects in fact, rather than in words, the rights of peoples to independent development and equality. Therefore, any solution to the Palestinian question which detracts from the legitimate rights of the Palestinian Arab people is unacceptable.

What Comrade Kosygin has said reflects an objective political reality, namely, any solution to the Palestinian question which is not based on the recognition of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, especially their right to set up their own independent state on their national soil, cannot be considered a solution to this question, but rather an attempt to liquidate it [words indistinct].

This objective political reality--which has been so engraved in everyone's mind by our long struggle that it has become a foregone conclusion, forming the basis for the attitudes taken by many countries of the world toward the Palestinian question--assumes more significance and efficacy when the Soviet Union itself voices it and considers it a basic condition for achieving a just settlement in the Middle East. This is because the Soviet Union is not only a friendly power registering a positive stand in favor of Palestinian and Arab struggle, but also a big world power and an ally playing a major role in international affairs by removing the specter of American monopoly and setting the bases for just solutions to current international issues, including our Palestinian question.

Undoubtedly, the significance of the Soviet position in the Middle East game becomes even more important when we see the Americans pooling all their capabilities, resources and tools to impose an American-Zionist solution on the area. This calls upon all the forces opposing and resisting this solution, headed by the Soviet Union, of course, to raise the coordination among them to the highest levels so that they will be in a position to stop the American-Zionist advance on the area and to influence the efforts to achieve a just settlement in the Middle East based on the recognition of the national rights of the Palestinian people.

The conference of steadfastness and confrontation has been aware of the significance of the Soviet role in the region and the inevitability of effective coordination between the USSR and the Arab forces. Thus, the conference's political declaration contained very clear provisions referring to this fact. All the conferees agreed on the need to take immediate action to attain a high level of effective coordination with the Soviet comrades because of the effect such coordination will have in rendering the steadfastness and confrontation program a success and, consequently, foiling the American-Zionist-reactionary settlement plan.

SAUDI ARABIA

KING KHALID URGES ARAB STATES TO SUPPORT SOMALIA

NC211334Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1225 GMT 21 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 21 February--King Khalid ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, ruler of Saudi Arabia, has called on the Arab League to urge its member states to support Somalia in its ordeal and to extend effective and immediate assistance to Somalia as a duty dictated by religion and Arab fraternity.

In a message he sent today to Mahmud Riyadh, secretary general of the Arab League, King Khalid said that Saudi Arabia has on its part given material and moral support to Somalia and that it is prepared to give futher support. He said that Saudi Arabia will inform the Arab League of the kind of aid that can be given to Somalia. King Khalid added that Saudi Arabia fully appreciated the difficult circumstances through which fraternal Somalia is passing, as noted in Somalia President Siad Barre's message to the Arab kings and presidents.

The Arab League had recently received a message from Somali President Siad Barre regarding the deteriorating situation in the Horn of Africa, in which he appealed to the Arab states to support Somalia in its ordeal. The Arab League Secretariat General conveyed the Somali president's message to the Arab kings and presidents and to the OAU secretary general within the context of the joint efforts to contain the Somali-Ethiopian conflict and to find a peaceful settlement.

UAE

PETROLEUM MINISTER DISCUSSES OIL PRICE INCREASE

NC211330Y Doha QNA in Arabic 0800 GMT 21 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Riyadh, 21 February--Dr Mani' Sa'id al-'Utaybah, UAE minister of petroleum and natural resources, has emphasized that it is inappropriate to increase oil prices as long as there is a surplus of about 2 million barrels of oil being produced daily. He said that oil prices can only be raised if demand exceeds supply, in which case we will find that prices automatically go up due to the competition for purchasing oil.

In an interview published today in the Saudi newspaper AL-JAZIRAH, Dr al-'Utaybah points out that the decision by the Caracas conference to freeze oil prices was made for the purpose of helping world economy and giving it another opportunity to overcome recession and to help the industrial states so that they do not continue to raise the prices of their industrial products.

Dealing with the question of the fall in the value of the dollar, Dr al-'Utaybah says that his country is watching the situation since any fluctuation in the value of the dollar will have negative effects on the UAE economy. He warns that the OPEC states might once again revert to using the special drawing rights or consider the creation of a new currency to be called the OPEC dollar, should the fall of value of the dollar continue.

Asked about reported disagreements among the OAPEC member states, Dr al-'Utaybah said: There are no disagreements but natural differences over the member states' activities.

Commenting on the energy plan of U.S. President Jimmy Carter, the UAE minister said: we do not see the need for such a plan since it would involve unnecessary transportation costs. Moreover, there would be difficulties in storage because 25 percent of stored oil would be lost due to leakage. He added that it would be better for the oil to remain at the source and that relations based on freindship and mutual respect and interests be established between the United States and the Arab oil producing states because this will guarantee the flow of Arab oil to the United States.

Dr al-'Utaybah said that the UAE has decided to reduce its oil production for this year by 200,000 barrels daily to promote a balance between supply and demand in oil markets and to help prices. He said that some states are calling for increased oil prices and at the same time are competing in production. This is inconsistent with the principles of economics.

Dr al-'Utaybah is currently visiting Saudi Arabia, where he arrived the day before yesterday.

BRIEFS

PDRY MINISTER TO IRAQ--'Abd al-'Aziz al-Wali Nashir, minister of economy and industry and acting minister of planning, left Aden this morning with a letter from Prime Minister 'Ali Nasir Muhammad to Saddam Husay, vice chairman of the Iraqi Revolution Command Council. [Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 18 Feb 78 LD/EA]

NEW AMBASSADORS IN BAHRAIN--Manama, 11 February--Bahraini Amir Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah received the credentials of the ambassador from Thailand, (Pat Mikon), and the ambassador from Finland,(Mikko Heimo), in Manama today. [Doha QNA Arabic 1100 GMT 11 Feb 78 NC]

COMORO ISLANDS DELEGATION--The delegation of the Republic of the Comoros today left San'a' at the end of its 1-day visit to the YAR. During the visit the delegation delivered a letter from President of the Republic of the Comoros Ali Soilih to YAR Command Council Chairman and Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces Lt Col Ahmad Husayn al-Ghashmi. [San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 22 Feb 78 JN]

ATTENTION CONTINUES TO FOCUS ON CYPRUS EVENTS

As-Sadat Receives Report

NC2207577 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0740 GMT 22 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 22 February--The newspaper AL-AKHBAR today reports that President Anwar as-Sadat yesterday received an important detailed report on the recent events in Cyprus which led to the assassination of Yusuf as-Siba'i and the martyrdom of some members of the Egyptian shock force. AL-AKHBAR says that the report outlines the consequences of these events as far as relations between the two countries are concerned.

Steps To Withdraw From Cyprus

NC2115307 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1442 GMT 21 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 21 Febraury--Prime Minister Mamduh Salim received Dr Butrus Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, in his office today. It has been learned that the Foreign Ministry has contacted the Egyptian Embassy in Cyprus about the implementation of the decision to recall the Egyptian diplomatic mission and members of the technical and commercial offices in Cyprus.

Salim Receives Cyprus Ambassador

NC2115327 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1443 GMT 21 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 21 February--Prime Minister Mamduh Salim today received in his office Cyprus Ambassador in Cairo Andis Sotiriadhis.

Kamil Comments on Terrorism

NC2120377 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1943 GMT 21 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Bonn, 21 February--Foreign Minister Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil has emphasized that the terrorist operations such as the ugly operation which was carried out in Nicosia will absolutely not affect the peace march which President as-Sadat began with his historic initiative, but will increase Egypt's resolve and determination to continue the march to achieve a just and durable peace which would serve the welfare of all peoples in the area.

In a statement to MENA, Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil affirmed that by virtue of its responsibility toward its people and in implementation of its policy of resisting international terrorism, Egypt will not show any leniency in case an aggression is committed against any Egyptian citizen anywhere.

Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil will leave Bonn for Cairo tomorrow after taking leave of senior German officials, including President Walter Scheel, Chancellor Helmut Schmidt and Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, ambassadors of Arab states and senior information, culture and economy officials in Federal Germany, where he was Egypt's ambassador for 4 years before his appointment as foreign minister.

MENA reports that Muhammad Ibrahim Kamil has been in constant contact with Cairo in the past few days to follow up on the developments of the situation in Cyprus. He was also in touch with Egypt's ambassador in Nicosia, Hasan Shash, and with Cyprus Ambassador in Bonn Tasos Panayides, who conveyed to the minister several messages from Cyprus President Kiprianou and from the Cyprus foreign minister.

MENA has also learned that the Egyptian foreign minister had a long telephone conversation yesterday with Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali immediately on Ghali's arrival in Nicosia.

Shock Force Commander Interviewed

NC211710Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 21 Feb 78 NC

[Interview with Egyptian shock force commander Brig Gen Nabil Shukri--recorded]

[Excerpts] [Question] First we would like you to tell us how the operation to rescue the hostages took place?

[Answer] We left Cairo on the order of the commander in chief and arrived at Larnaca airport in Cyprus, where we stayed for about 90 minutes. I estimated that this was long enough to give the Cyprus authorities time to reach an understanding with the hijackers on their surrender. When I saw that the time was dragging on without justification, I decided to begin carrying out the operation.

The force was ordered to storm the hijacked plane. The force moved immediately toward the hijacked plane and stormed it. As a result of this surprise assault, the hijackers surrendered immediately [as heard].

[Question] Sir, were the orders given to the force to proceed directly to Cyprus or in another direction?

[Answer] One hour before we left for Cyprus, orders were issued to go to Djibouti to rescue the hijacked plane. This order was amended to go to Cyprus because the plane had left Djibouti for Cyprus.

[Question] Can you describe for us the shooting by the Cyprus forces against the Egyptian commandos?

[Answer] As I have said, as soon as the orders were given to the assault force it rushed toward the plane and actually reached the plane's gangway and began to climb the steps. Then suddenly the Cyprus forces opened fire on the backs of the men of the shock force. Actually this was a sort of treachery to fire on the backs of the [illegible]

[Question] Did any sort of clash take place between the commando force and the Cyprus forces?

[Answer] The clash was in an exchange of fire.

[Question] How long did this last?

[Answer] The firing lasted about 30 minutes.

[Question] How would it be possible, in your opinion, to foil such a terrorist [illegible]

[Answer] I think that it would have been possible for the Cyprus forces or the Cyprus Government to contribute to the foiling this operation if they had been informed [illegible] the beginning.

This would have been very simple, because it would have been possible to kill the two hijackers while they were going from the hotel to the plane, before it left Cyprus. It would also have been possible to overpower them and foil their operation while they were getting on the plane, before it took off from Cyprus. If the Cyprus forces had not intervened against the Egyptian forces, which were there to help them, this operation would certainly have been accomplished without any bloodshed.

[Question] How was the Egyptian plane hit on the tarmac?

[Answer] As a result of the clashes which took place between the Cyprus and Egyptian forces, some shots hit the plane. This caused the plane to explode.

[Question] What was the attitude of the Cyprus people toward your operation? Of course, you met some people at the airport and spoke to them. What was their opinion regarding the government's position and the operation itself?

[Answer] There is no doubt that no sensible man fails to condemn any form of terrorism. I sensed from some of the people who were there that the Cyprus people are very displeased with the intervention of the Cyprus authorities against the operation of the Egyptian forces, which went there to help them.

[Question] We would like to know your feeling after this operation and the courageous world and terrorism displayed by the Egyptian shock force.

[Answer] We in the shock force are part of the armed forces. We carry out the orders given to us. If we are ordered to repeat any operation in the future, we shall carry it out with the same force and determination anywhere, God willing.

Funeral of Larnaca Commandos

[Editorial Report NC] Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic at 0843 GMT on [illegible] links up with Cairo Voice of the Arabs to begin a live relay from Cairo of the funeral ceremony for the commandos killed at Larnaca airport, Cyprus. According to the announcer, the ceremony is being held in Nasir City in Cairo and thousands of mourners are in attendance. The ceremony begins with 6 minutes of chanting from the Koran at 0852 GMT.

The funeral procession then begins. The announcer says that the coffins of the dead are being borne on gun carriages. The mourners are led by President Anwar as-Sadat followed by symbolic units of the armed forces, the wreath bearers, the gun carriages and then the mourners. Army bands can be heard in the background playing funeral music.

Besides describing the funeral procession, the announcer narrates the events which led to the killing of the commandos, whom, he says went to Larnaca to restore legitimacy. The announcer goes on to say: "But the hand of treachery was lying in wait for them. The hand of collusion was lying in wait for them. The government which refused to deal with the cowards with arms dealt with the Egyptian troops with arms. Thus, they were martyred."

Continuing to describe the funeral procession, the announcer says that the expressions of anger on the faces of the mourners cannot hide the determination of the people to stand firm, adding: "The people know how to wreak vengeance."

The announcer then pledges to the martyrs that "we will continue to march on the road, to rebel for every noble value, to carry the torch to light our path toward every noble concept and to carry fire to scorch the face of anyone who tries to (?jeopardize) the right of this people to lead a dignified, free life."

At 0936 GMT the procession arrives at the Martyrs Monument in Nasir City and the live relay ends. The radio resumes transmissions from the studio with 24 minutes of Koran readings followed by a newscast at 1000 and a talk on the Islamic religion beginning at 1015 GMT. No speeches were delivered during the live relay.

As-Sadat Addresses Shock Units

NC221225Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1210 GMT 22 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 22 February--President Anwar as-Sadat today announced the withdrawal of Egypt's recognition of Spiros Kiprianou as president of Cyprus. He said that Cyprus must hand over the hirelings to Egypt. The president said that the Palestinians must be aware, before all the Arabs, that Egypt will strike 10 times for 1. President as-Sadat noted that Egypt is defending the Palestinian question everywhere while the Palestinians are hiring out themselves as killers and terrorists in bars and cabarets. This was contained in a speech President as-Sadat delivered this afternoon to representative units of the shock and air forces whose members had taken part in the Larnaca airport operation in Cyprus.

President Anwar as-Sadat added: We are facing some small challenges. I cannot describe them as anything more than small challenges because the perpetrators are small in their thinking and in their attitude.

The president continued: These people must realize that Egypt will remain the heart of the Arab nation and the key to everything in the area whether they like it or not.

He added: You have heard me say that I am prepared to go to the ends of the earth to prevent the shedding of one drop of blood of any of my sons. I went to the Knesset and the whole world learned how I faced them with all the facts.

The president also said: I am revealing for the first time that we had contacted Djibouti because we were supposed to attack the plane there. Djibouti agreed to the mission but the hijacked plane had by then taken off for Cyprus. The president also said that Cyprus had been contacted. He added: We informed the officials there that the Egyptian plane was carrying our sons to help the Cyprus Government confront this crime.

The president said that Kiprianou is now asking to meet me but there is no talking between us, and Cyprus must hand over the two mercenary criminals to me and Cyprus must explain the treachery that was committed against my sons.

The president said that Yusuf as-Siba'i, who was killed in Cyprus, defended Cyprus independence continuously for 22 years.

The president added that when Makarios was released from exile, Egypt received and honored him. The president pointed out that Egypt has given more aid to Cyprus than even Greece despite the fact that the majority of the island's population is Greek.

President as-Sadat said that even if we had not asked permission from Cyprus, such a thing would never have happened. He added that Cyprus could not stop two criminals. The president then asked: Was there any collusion?

The president added: At a time my sons were arriving to restore to President Kiprianou his honor and respect after he had been insulted by the two terrorists who refused to talk to him, he committed this treacherous crime.

The president said that the commandos gave the Cypriots 90 minutes to talk with the hirelings. When the commander of the commandos learned that Cyprus was arranging for passports for the two killers, he made his decision and carried out his operation. The president added that a price must be paid for the treachery represented in Kiprianou's decision, which resulted in the martyrdom of some of my sons.

The president further said: I will never let Egypt's fate be in the hands of a clique of agents or small people, nor will I ever allow any human being to dictate any line of his choosing on Egypt. The president stressed that Egypt knows exactly what it wants and is aware of its historic responsibilities and will tell the small, stupid and mercenary people: Stay in your place.

In conclusion President as-Sadat said: I have nothing to say except to repeat what I said on 16 October, that when our heads were bleeding we never lowered them. Today, after the October generation, which you made possible, Egypt's head will remain lofty in the sky providing light for friend and foe alike.

At the beginning of his speech President as-Sadat paid tribute on behalf of the Egyptian people and the president personally to every member of the unit which carried out the operation for their heroic performance and for what they are doing in defense of every Egyptian and of Egypt's position and honor.

After the president's address, Brig Gen Nabil Shukri presented a gift to President Anwar as-Sadat and said: In the name of God, most Gracious, most Merciful, "among the believers are men who have been true to their covenant with God; of them some have completed their vow (to the extreme), and some (still) wait; but they have never changed (their determination) in the least." [verse from the Koran]

Brigadier General Shukri added: Mr President and Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, please accept this symbolic gift. We are always ready for sacrifice and martyrdom.

Addressing the commander of the shock force, the president said: The commander in chief has informed me that you fully implemented your mission and that you arrested the murderers and freed the hostages. Your decision was correct. I am responsible for your decision. You performed your duty in the best way.

At the end of the meeting, the heroes who took part in the Cyprus operation, the shock and air force men, including a number of wounded men in hospital uniform, lined up to be greeted one by one by the president, who congratulated them on their heroism and praised their extraordinary action.

The meeting, which took place after the funeral of the martyrs today, was attended by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of War Gen Muhammad al-Jamasi, Chief of Staff Lt Gen Muhammad 'Ali Fahmi, Air Force Commander Air Maj Gen Shakir 'Abd al-Mun'im and commander of the special forces Brig Gen Nabil Shukri. The meeting began with a brief address by General al-Jamasi, who then presented President as-Sadat, the supreme commander of the armed forces, to deliver his speech.

As-Sadat Press Conference

NC221313Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 22 Feb 78 NC

[Text] President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat said today that he promises the Egyptian people that he will punish all the traitors who were involved in the crime of killing martyr Yusuf as-Siba'i and the martyrs of the Egyptian commandos and that Egypt will return the aggression tenfold against anyone who attacks it.

The president declared this at the press conference which was held at noon today at the hall of martyr 'Abd al-Mun'im Riyad at the headquarters of the armed forces supreme command. His excellency affirmed that he will never agree to the holding of a dialog with Cyrpus President Kiprianou if the Cyprus authorities do not hand over the two mercenary traitors for interrogation. He said that he has decided to withdraw Egypt's recognition of Cyprus [as heard] in retaliation for the treacherous treason the Cyprus Government planned against the valiant Egyptian shock forces which landed at Larnaca airport to restore the dignity of the Cyprus president after the two terrorists had refused to even hold a dialog with him.

His excellency emphasized that Egypt will always remain the mother of the Arabs and the Egypt of the Arabs who crossed with them and restored their self-confidence. Egypt will trample the dwarfs regardless of the price. It will never permit a few small or mad people to control the fate of Egypt.

His excellency hailed the hero soldiers. The conference was attended by Deputy Prime Minister and War Minister Gen Muhammad 'Abd al-Ghani al-Jamasi, Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces Lt Gen 'Ali Fahmi, Commander of the Air Force Air Maj Gen Mahmud Shakir 'Abd al-Mun'im and commander of the Egyptian shock forces Brig Gen Nabil Shukri.

Shock Forces Commander Promoted

NC221318Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1245 GMT 22 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 22 February--President of the Republic and Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat has decided to promote Brig Gen Nabil Shukri, commander of the shock forces and of the Cyprus operation, to the rank of major general as of today in appreciation of the heroic efforts made by the shock forces and the air force at Larnaca airport, Cyprus. This was announced by Gen Muhammad 'Abd al-Ghani al-Jamasi, deputy prime minister and war minister, during his meeting today with the shock forces and air forces which took part in the Cyprus operation.

During the meeting, General al-Jamasi said that the Cyprus operation turned into a suicide operation during which the members of the armed forces proved capable of opening their way and accomplishing their mission whatever the difficulties and the sacrifices. General al-Jamasi added: This is in fact always the motto of the Egyptian armed forces. It is the true motto of the glorious October war.

Cairo Press Comment

NC211140Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0610 GMT 21 Feb 78 NC

[Press review]

[Excerpts] In an article headlined "Question Marks," AL-AHRAM'S chief editor 'Ali Hamdi al-Jammal says: There is more than one question mark surrounding the despicable assassination of martyr Yusuf as-Siba'i. These questions are:

1. Ever since the start of the preparations for convening the AAPSO conference, a dispute had arisen among the AAPSO Secretariat members about the venue of the conference. Cyprus was suggested as the venue for the meeting. Even when the question was raised that security was not guaranteed in Cyprus, some Secretariat members insisted on convening the meeting in Cyprus. Martyr Yusuf as-Siba'i and some of his colleagues tried to suggest other places, including Cairo, Baghdad and Moscow but the others insisted on convening it in Nicosia.

2. After the incident had taken place, the preliminary information the Cyprus authorities gave to Egypt was that the murderers were Eritreans. It was later learned that the source of this information was the Syrian military attache in Nicosia, who was present at the scene of the crime.

3. After the plane carrying the murderers and hostages had returned to Cyprus, Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad contacted the president of Cyprus, Kiprianou, and tried his utmost to make the Cyprus authorities hand over the two terrorists to the PLO so that they would not fall in the hands of the Egyptian authorities.

4. Despite the fact that they had been warned before the meeting that it was necessary to take all types of security measures for the meeting, the Cyprus authorities did not implement the required measures. This is proved by the fact that the two terrorists committed their despicable crime and then detained all the Cypriot security men who were in the hotel without any resistance being put up by any of the security men or any of those working in the hotel.

5. The Cypriot forces' attack on the Egyptian shock forces who had gone to Larnaca airport to participate in fighting terrorism and put an end to actions which are condemned by the entire world constitutes an attempt to help the two terrorists since it was apparently clear that the Cyprus authorities were seeking to get rid of them by any means without making any attempt to arrest them. Had the Egyptian shock not troops intervened the two terrorists would now be free.

6. It is truly questionable how the Cyprus authorities failed to arrest the two terrorists and how they allowed the terrorists to behave as they would like and then how they directed the tanks to open fire on the Egyptian shock force which went to Cyprus to protect the hostages and to pursue and arrest the two criminals.

7. How does the president of Cyprus, Kiprianou, explain his anger at us, because we tried to protect our subjects whereas, at the same time, he does not want us to get angry because of a crime that was committed on Cyprus territory and the security authorities there did not move to protect the lives of the hostages and pursue the two criminals?

I ask these questions without leveling accusations against anyone but to throw light on suspect actions requiring explanation and elucidation. We cannot possibly keep quiet about such ugly crimes that are committed not only against states but also against humanity, law and international order.

The international community had previously condemned terrorism and asked all states to adopt measures to put an end to it. It is now necessary to look for answers to these questions and to question the Cyprus authorities about the actions which resulted in the loss of a number of lives.

The statement the Egyptian authorities made after the crime was committed expresses Egypt's determination and insistence on confronting terrorism and the terrorists. Egypt has honored its pledge and it will undoubtedly make this insistence a policy for dealing with the states or groups which direct or protect terrorism. I do not think that any state in the world differs with Egypt on this policy of protecting the security of the states and the lives of their sons.

While demanding that the Cyprus authorities, particularly the president of Cyprus, explain their actions, we also ask them to guarantee that meticulous and serious investigations will be carried out during the trial of the two terrorists so that those who are behind this terrorism will be exposed to the world--terrorism, which is rejected by the civilized international community.

In a signed article AL-AKHBAR chief editor Musa Sabri says: The president of Cyprus, Mr Kiprianou, must understand that however much he tries to justify his stand of issuing orders to the Cypriot armored vehicles to open fire on the Egyptian shock troops and to burn the Egyptian plane, collusion, ill will, retreat before terrorism and the protection of the murderers of Yusuf as-Siba'i on Cyprus territory have become clear facts which no excuses can hide.

Before the AAPSO conference was convened, the Government of Cyprus undertook to insure security. This took place during official meetings with the acting president of Cyprus and a number of ministers. These meetings were held by an Egyptian official in AAPSO, who was later taken hostage before the eyes of the Cyprus Government. It was proved that the imaginary guards assigned to cover the conference were mostly unarmed. One of the guards has told news agencies that he did not carry weapons because he never believed that anything would happen. It was also proved that there were no guards on the floors where the Egyptian delegation was staying. Moreover, if the Cyprus Government had the least desire to fight terrorism, it would have been able to do so as the hostages were being transported by bus from the hotel to the airport. Press and television pictures clearly show that the Government of Cyprus was completely lax in the face of crime. The two murderers were standing calmly without any protection with their backs to the street. Customarily, terrorists always hide behind the hostages. But the two murderers in Cyprus did not need to do so. They were completely sure that the Cyprus security forces were not going to confront or try to arrest them.

Another thing then happened. Some Cypriot ministers told the members of the Egyptian delegation who were not taken hostages that they were trying with various excuses to delay the plane they had provided for the two terrorists in order to enable Egypt to act.

Action meant that an Egyptian force would come to rescue the hostages and arrest the two murderers. It became apparent that this promise was mere talk for the purpose of lulling us, because they, first of all, did not allow the civilian plane which brought Information Minister 'Abd al-Mun'im as-Sawi on the first day to land at the civilian airport but made it land at a military airport far from the civilian airport where the plane of the terrorists was standing.

The authorities of Cyprus even told the murderers that the Egyptian information minister had arrived. The two murderers thought that the minister had brought Egyptian security forces with him. Therefore, they expedited the departure of their plane.

Musa Sabri Mourns As-Siba'i

LD211834Y Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 20 Feb 78 pp 1, 4 LD

[Chief editor Musa Sabri article: "Egypt, Egypt, Long Live Egypt"]

[Excerpts] I cried when my father and mother died. Yesterday I cried at the funeral of Yusuf as-Siba'i, when Egypt bade him farewell at his final resting place.

I cried a great deal, but my tears were only a drop in an angry and turbulent ocean of tears shed by the masses of the Egyptian people--the ocean of their agony and of their shouts from the depth of their hearts as they bade farewell to the noble and heroic martyr. In so doing, the masses declared their spontaneous anger at the cowards and scoundrels behind this murder. The whole of Egypt has been shaken with anger. It is as if the masses said: If this is what you call struggle, you who trade in the name of Palestine, then is this the kind of Palestine you want and is this why you have assassinated an honorable and clean Egyptian nationalist? This Egyptian was a man who lived his life struggling to obtain support for international resolutions on behalf of the Palestinians' right to exist and live a dignified life.

It was because of this that shouts reverberated throughout Egypt "no Palestine after today." Yes, this is what Egyptian anger means. This has been said in the name of tens of thousands of heroic Egytian martyrs who have given their lives for the sake of Palestine.

The Palestine we want is an independent state established on liberated territory. It is not the Palestine that Moscow's agents, the servants of the Kremlin and those who worship money, want.

We have sacrificed thousands of martyrs and have made sacrifices in our daily life. We have sacrificed the people's right to goood education, proper housing and the services that a state normally provides for the people. We have sacrificed and are still making sacrifices. We have sacrificed and awakened the people of the world in order to support us for the sake of an Arab Palestine, for the sake of the Palestinian people suffering in tents and huts, and for 1.5 million Palestinians suffering the indignity of Israeli occupation. We have not made these sacrifices for a Palestine that the Soviet Union trades with in order to achieve its ambitions. We have not made these sacrifices for those who rule their people with steel and fire, who suppress their people, and who receive their orders from Moscow. We also have not made sacrifices for the sake of a Palestinian leadership that has lost the legality of its existence.

It is strange indeed. The airports of Algeria, communist Yemen, Al-Qadhdhafi's Libya, and Ba'thist Syria closed their doors in the face of the plane that carried the murderers of Yusuf as-Siba'i and the Egyptian and Arab hostages.

God be praised! You, the rulers of these countries--beginning with Al-Asad, Al-Qadhdhafi, Boumediene and ending with Yasir 'Arafat--have been, since As-Sadat's initiative, day and night instigating cowardly assassination.

In your cheap statements you accuse us of treason and in your radios and newspapers you have called for our death, yet today you closed your airports in the face of those who carried out your orders and acted according to your criminal instigation.

Yesterday a PLO spokesman said that the PLO was horrified by the criminal assassination of Yusuf as-Siba'i. What manliness! Have you forgotten that Abu Iyad, the second man in the PLO, has been daily addressing the deceived Palestinian masses and proudly boasting to them that a single shot is sufficient to end As-Sadat's initiative? Have you forgotten that Yasir 'Arafat, whom we have given and given what only an ingrate would deny, signed the Tripoli statement, which accused the Egyptian people and the Egyptian leadership of treason? Why treason? Is it because As-Sadat is the man who has been shouldering the burden of the Palestinian problem, has been traveling the four corners of the world to convince the world peoples of the justice of the Palestine cause?

The Egyptian masses, both men and women, yesterday called on Anwar as-Sadat to seek vengeance for the blodd of Yusuf as-Siba'i and of the thousands of Egyptian martyrs. The masses called on us, the Egyptian writers, to write expressing their true feelings, their tears and their sufferings. The masses shout in our faces: What have we reaped from standing with those who trade in the Palestinian problem? What have we reaped except death, poverty and poor quality bread, and yet we are accused of treason?

Free, noble, dignified and brave Egypt will not abandon the Arab Palestine that we want. It will not abandon Palestine and its people who are suffering the horror of Israeli occupation. And it will not abandon a Palestine liberated from leaderships that trade with it, receive bribes and become millionaires.

Ambassador to Return to Cairo

NC2215162 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1506 GMT 22 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 22 February--Egyptian Ambassador in Cyprus Hasan Shash will return to Cairo within the next 2 days in accordance with the instructions he received from Cairo to withdraw the Egyptian diplomatic mission from Cyprus in the wake of the Larnaca airport operation. Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali is expected to meet with the Cyprus ambassador in Cairo, Andis Sotiriadhis, regarding this subject.

AS-SADAT GRANTS INTERVIEW TO OCTOBER MAGAZINE

NC1814302 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1107 GMT 18 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 18 February--President Anwar as-Sadat has announced that the reason for Israel's annoyance with the U.S. decision to supply arms to Egypt is due to Israel's desire to be the strongest country in the Middle East and, by this strength, to remain a source of intimidation in the region.

The president said that Israel does not want Egypt or any other state to have a strong relationship with the United States. It wants to monopolize their relationship. His excellency explained that what disturbs Israel is the existing contact between Egypt and the United States and this contact has reached the point of arms being supplied to the Egyptian Army.

In an interview with OCTOBER magazine, to be published tomorrow, President an-Sadat points out that there is contradiction between the U.S. support for Egypt's efforts to achieve peace in the region and the generous and large U.S. supply of arms to Israel. His excellency affirmed that the large amount of arms Israel possesses is what deludes Israel and makes it play with peace and prompts it to threaten and intimidate with fire and war.

The following is the text of the interview the president granted to OCTOBER magazine.

[Question] Mr President, there has been some annoyance noted in the Middle East due to the U.S. announcement that it will arm Egypt, although the type of arms the United States has promised Egypt is not of the same quality as the unlimited arms it is giving to Israel and despite the fact that Soviet arms are flowing into the entire area. How do you explain the annoyance expressed by Israel or some Arab states. Does the failure to Egypt or a general embargo imposed on it reassure the enemies and certain brothers who are no longer friends? Does Your Excellency not view this as something truly strange?

[Answer] It appears to be strange, indeed. It only appears so. But what we are now witnessing has a basis in history, both distant and recent. I can see a reason for Israel to be annoyed. It wants to be the strongest state in the area and, by this strength, to remain a source of intimidation in the area. Its fear and lack of security over the long term make it arm itself to the hilt. This is understood and I am very well aware of it. It is also understood that because of this fear, which has prompted it to arm itself, it wants to be a source of intimidation, too. If it frightens its neighbors, it will remain in its position, which war after war has increased in the area.

However, I would like to go back to the old, deep-rooted reasons. I want to get to the root of what we are witnessing today. All incidents and facts I present--which are taken from the statements of the Jews who went to Palestine or of those by whom and by whose arms the State of Israel was established--are taken from their books and plans. This is well known to the whole world. However, I will link all these things together logically, because it appears that they are not clear to the Arabs or the Americans, and the Isrelis are generally trying to hide the roots of these facts. This is the well-contrived plan which they drew up toward the end of the 19th century and which they have been implementing to the letter up to now.

[Question] Mr President, excuse me. Before you present this well-contrived plan the Jews have drawn up, I would like to say that the Jews get mad when it is said that they have a plan they are implementing to the letter. What makes them mad is the same thing that feeds their conceit, namely, the fact that they have a tremendous ability to implement their plans in all circumstances, whatever they are, while the world, from one end to the other, neither resists nor opposes them. They are angered by this but not out of modesty for they are, by nature, extremely conceited and arrogant.

What angers them is that they should appear strong in the eyes of the world and thus negate their other argument that they are an opposed minority that deserves pity and sympathy and that the whole world must favor them with funds and material because the Arabs seek to devour them eventually and that they only want to defend themselves and their right to life like all God's creatures and so on and so forth.

[Answer] They are clever. They are well aware that only their cohesion, complete understanding and clarity of vision will make them strong. Also, their persistence in their aims, the amount of time they devote studying their adversaries, their awarness of which way the wind is blowing, East or West, and their knowledge of weak and strong points have given them a clear, strong vision of the situation in the area.

Another thing which is no less important is their awareness of the nature of the Arabs, of Arab characteristics, the Arab mood and the natural Arab disposition. They know that the Arabs, by nature, are not in mutual agreement much of the time and that if they agree today it is only to disagree tomorrow. Therefore, they realize that they must always take into account the fact that the Arabs are at odds and that it is necessary that they remain at odds, because it is disagreement among the Arabs that weakens the Arabs and solidarity among the Jews that strengthens the Jews. Therefore, the Jews are always eager to apply the old British principle of divide and rule, and this has proved successful for them. What is worse than this--and the Jews who lived in Palestine were aware of this--is that there is no Arab who cannot be bought and that everyone has a price. They have also discovered another principle, namely, that there is no Arab who cannot be bought together with the land on which he stands. Therefore, many Arab families had sold their land to the Palestinian Jews. The Jews infiltrated Palestine by purchasing land and building Jewish settlements, which, in the beginning, were agricultural settlements and then became industrial and later military settlements. All of this is recorded in history.

As for the well-contrived plan of the Jews, which was later transformed into a theory by Ben-Gurion, it is based on the theory of Israeli security--that is, Israel can achieve security for itself by being a state, a recognized state, surrounded by weak Arabs while it itself must be strong. As to how it can be strong, I must go back to the beginnings of the historical threads which were later woven into a fabric, or into an international political, economic and religious trap.

At the first Zionist congress, which convened in Basle, Switzerland, in August 1897 and which was supposed to convene in Munich, Germany, Austrian journalist Theodor Herzl made his famous announcement that the State of Israel was established and that within 5 or 50 years this would become fact. His prophecy, or determination that reached the level of prophesy, came true and Israel was established on the date that they planned. Among the most important resolutions adopted at the congress was that the Jews or world Zionism or the Jewish state must be protected by a major power--that is, it must be under the constant protection of the greatest state. In other words, to be a big state, the small State of Israel would have to rely on the arms and shoulders of a great state.

At that time, the greatest state was Germary, under Kaiser Wilhelm II. At that time also, Germany had adopted an expansionist slogan--advance eastward. The Jews emphasized to the Kaiser that this was possible through trade, transactions, the opening of markets and the infiltration of all the states of the area, from Turkey as far as India, including Baghdad, Damascus, Jerusalem and the Persian Gulf. The gulf did not have the importance it now has. Oil had not yet been discovered.

History repeats itself. Hitler later carried out the plan and dreams of Kaiser Wilhelm II when he marched East toward Russia and through North Africa as far as Egypt. Wilhelm II rejected what the Jews proposed because he did not trust them. So they turned quickly to Sultan 'Abd al-Hamid II and offered him their services and expressed to him their willingness to give him money and to settle his debts. The Arab states were at that time occupied by Turkey. The Turkish occupation lasted for 4 centuries and sapped all the resources of the Arab states. The Ottoman occupation was the worst ever witnessed by the Arab countries. It was clear that the Jews were asking Sultan 'Abd al-Hamid to give them a national homeland in Palestine in return for their help.

The Jews, however, differed among themselves about the national homeland. Would it be Palestine in particular or would it be somewhere else, and did Herzl insist on Palestine or anywhere on earth? Ben-Gurion, with planning and determination, carried through the dreams of the Jews who met in Basle in Switzerland.

After World War I the Jews turned to Great Britain, which emerged prominently after the war. The Jews asked a price for the fatal chemicals, including poison gas, which Ha'im Weizmann had invented and offered to the British Army. The Jews asked that the price be a "promise" of a national homeland. This is the promise which in 1917 became known in history as the Balfour Declaration.

Before this declaration was issued, the Jews had prepared well for the hour when their state would come into existence. They prepared for that hour with the land which they had bought and with the immigrants who had come to Palestine secretly and publicly. They prepared for it with arms and ammunition. They prepared for all that by conquering Arab minds and splitting Arab leaders and at the same time by using their influence on Great Britain.

The state came into existence and was recognized by the United States. In his memoirs President Truman declared bluntly that the Jews had votes in the U.S. elections. Did the Arabs have any? The answer was, of course, no, the Arabs had no votes. Therefore, he had to buy Jewish votes by recognizing the State of Israel. Israel moved to link itself with the United States, the state whose star shone after World War II.

What I want to say is that Israel has been seeking to link itself permanently with a superpower so as to insure its survival and its existence, or as long as it insures its security it insures its survival as well. This is the essence of Israel's security theory, which was laid down by Ben-Gurion. Israel is still scrupulously applying this theory. Ben-Gurion was no different from Begin, despite the sharp differences which later occurred between them.

In other words, Israel does not want Egypt or any other state to have a strong relationship with the United States. It wants to monopolize this relationship. I have often pointed to this very special relationship between the United States and Israel. I have no objection to it. I recognize this relationship and appreciate it, but at the same time I am calling for peace. This is clear worldwide, morally and practically. How come the United States supports Israel and showers it with plenty of weapons and then supports my call for peace? The abundant arms Israel possesses tempt it and push it to play with peace and war and prompt it--and it is excused for that--to threaten and intimidate with fire.

I recognize this special relationship between the United States and Israel, but I am a friend of the United States, too. If the United States is unable to be equally just to its friends, at least it should strike a balance between the two sides and not act to obliterate the issue. At the same time it would be illogical and unacceptable for the United States to join Russia in imposing an arms embargo on Egypt.

Moreover, these F-5 aircraft Egypt will be equipped with are nothing compared with what Israel has or with what the United States will give to Israel, because they are 10th-rate planes. However, what is bothering Israel is the fact that there are contacts between Egypt and the United States and that these contacts have reached the point of arms being supplied to Egypt.

When the 23 July 1952 revolution broke out, Israel was disturbed by our contacts with the U.S. Embassy. From the first day we contacted the U.S. military attache to affirm to the United States that our revolution was a domestic affair. At the time when the U.S. ambassador was inviting us to a nightly get together, the British Embassy was trying in vain to contact us to find out who carried out the revolution.

When Ben-Gurion noticed that there was a kind of courtship between Egypt and the United States, he became irritated for the very reason I have just mentioned. He acted to wreck this newborn relationship between Egypt and the United States. This relationship was later completely wrecked by U.S. Secretary of State Foster Dulles and also by Johnson.

Ben-Gurion masterminded the famous incident which became known as the "Lavon scandal. Pinhas Lavon was the Israeli minister of defense. Ben-Gurion sent two Jewish agents to blow up U.S. installations in Egypt. Lavon emphatically denied any knowledge of the incident. The two agents were arrested. They committed suicide in prison. Lavon was forced to resign all his government and party posts.

[Question] Speaking of the single and well-contrived plan by world Zionism, the Israelis do not disagree on the principles but on how to apply them. Some contemporary Israeli writers affirm that there are several aspects to the differences among them. It is as if they want to show there is a kind of flexibility. In line with regional and international changes, a book has been published in Israel under the title "Israelis and Palestinians; Peaceful Coexistence or Else." It is the first book issued following your peace initiative. In this book we read about an ultranationalist Jew, who at the same time has been calling for peace and coexistence with the Palestinians for 50 years. The author says that it was Ben-Gurion who coined the famous expression: "If they let me choose between peace and land, I would choose peace." He also quotes a statement by Dayan which says: "If they let me choose between a land without peace or peace without land, I would choose land without peace." At the same time, Begin is asking for both peace and land. In other words, he is demanding the impossible.

In his recent book "My Life" and in the chapter in which he discusses the October war, Abba Eban takes to task all Israeli leaders and politicians. He does not agree with Moshe Dayan who declared before the October war that there is no such thing called Palestine, nor with Golda Meir who said that if the Palestinians want a homeland, let them go to Iraq or Jordan. Don't we see, Mr President, that the Israeli leaders are anxious to contradict each other in order to confuse the Arabs?

[Answer] This takes us back to the core of the Israeli security theory as devised by Ben-Gurion. According to Ben-Gurion, one of the main principles of this theory is that Israel should have no "specific borders," meaning that Israel should be unconstricted without borders or maps and that it should have no territorial boundaries, so that its territory might increase, but not decrease.

Ben-Gurion believed that if he were to specify the territory, he would be confining himself and his people to a small area. It would also mean that any of his neighbors would be able to dispute the borders to seek a demarcation of borders, but so long as Israel remained without a map no one would know whether Israel would stop at a certain point or seek more. So long as the Arab states remained at odds with one another and divided, they would fail to agree on this ambiguous situation. Israel would give the Arabs "a false hope" that it might submit a map of Israel so that the Arabs would know what belonged to it and what did not, where it stood, and where its forces and settlements stood.

This is why there is an "intentional" conflict in the views of all Israeli politicians at all times. It is like submitting a thousand maps and distributing them all over the world with the result that no one would know exactly what Israel is, or like submitting numerous plans for a solution or a settlement, or like submitting conflicting views regarding erection, demolition or maintenance of settlements in the occupied Arab territories, as Israel has done.

It was Ben-Gurion who said that any territory on which an Israeli soldier stands constitutes Israeli territory. It is the same slogan all Europe used after Columbus discovered America. Every spot where a flag was raised belonged to the state of that flag.

This means that Israel wants to be neither dry and brittle nor soft and squeezable as the old saying goes. It gives itself the color and characteristics of mercury, which spreads easily and which is difficult to hold. The aim is that its movement on the territory of others should not be restricted by anyone.

[Question] Mr President, if Ben-Gurion were alive, would you be able to achieve better results with him?

[Answer] It would have been possible to achieve something better than what is achievable in any negotiations with Begin and his government.

[Question] In an interview with an American television network, not yet broadcast, you say that it would have been possible to achieve something better with Golda Meir had she still been prime minister. Why?

[Answer] I have been asked to give my opinion of Golda Meir more than once. I had experiences with her at the time of the disengagement after the October war. She was, I noticed, a woman with a strong personality capable of making decisions and of facing the public. I met her in Jerusalem and I spoke with her in the Knesset, after which I became sure that she could go further and do better than Menahem Begin.

[Question] Mr President, Libya has been upset by the U.S. armament of Egypt, despite the fact that Libya, too, has more highly sophisticated Soviet weapons than it can absorb. Furthermore, Libya does not need any of this. So, what made Libya angry or upset?

[Answer] There is a special relationship between Libya and the Soviet Union. I was surprised that Al-Qadhdhafi instructed his UN delegate to protest against the supply of U.S. arms to Egypt, as if our weapons would be aimed at Libya or as if Egypt is supposed to remain without arms so that Al-Qadhdhafi would be kind enough to give us some, or as if Egypt should be incapable of defending itself so that the Soviets might be kind enough to offer us their weapons, without spare parts. I do not know what we would do with the meager weapons that they would give us, that is, if they did.

I will not be adding anything new if I mention again that when Soviet Premier Kosygin went to Libya, he adopted the attitude of a rich grandmother toward a pampered grandson. He told Al-Qadhdhafi: You are asking for tanks "62"; no, I will give you tanks "72" [figures not further clarified]. You are asking for p[illegible] similar to those Egypt has, but I will give you more developed planes which we ha[illegible]ven to no one else--long-range planes to frighten all the African states. Ask and your demand will be met. It was like a scene out of the "1,001 Nights" tales.

The reason for this is very simple--hatred of Egypt, nothing else. It is a long story and we all know the details. This confirms my statement that Al-Qadhdhafi is mad. This has been categorically confirmed medically. The man is mad. He went so far in his madness as to announce a boycott of the oil tankers which use the Egyptian Sumed Company pipeline between Suez and Alexandria. In other words, these tankers will not be supplied with any of their requirements at the Libyan ports. He simply wants to impose a war on Egypt but what he has decided and imagined will not affect us or bother us in the least.

After his desperate attempts in Egypt and its environs, from inside and outside, and after he had spent millions of dollars and sent explosive charges and agents, he did not shake Egypt as he had wished nor did he shake its structure as they had claimed. He and those behind him continue to live on this foolish hope. But no[illegible] rot will be achieved for him or the Soviets, thanks to God and thanks [illegible] of our people, the justness of our cause and the hope of the hundreds of [illegible] the world for the establishment of peace in the Middle East through Egypt's [illegible] initiative.

The Soviets take every opportunity to reiterate that Egypt has 350 planes and that the planes are grounded and will never fly. They say they are like birds whose wings have been clipped and have thus turned from eagles into tame birds. However anyone who saw the military parade last October knows that all those planes rose into the air. Had I relied on the Soviets as they had planned, our planes would have remained on the ground or even under the ground. I turned to friends in People's China, Iraq, the United States and Britain. The United States and Britain repaired the planes while [illegible] gave us MIG-17 engines and Iraq gave us spare parts. All this is thanks to the Soviets who have unintentionally made us discover new friends in both the East and West.

FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL COMMENTS ON U.S. ARMS

NC171325Y Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 17 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Dr Usamah al-Baz has made a statement to the radio correspondent on the results of the discussions President Anwar as-Sadat held with U.S. President Carter.

He said: For the first time since the outbreak of the Arab-Israel conflict, the United States has officially announced that it will supply Egypt with advanced sophisticated weapons. This decision has a political significance which is no less important than the military significance. This is the first time since the outbreak of the Arab-Israeli conflict that the United States has agreed to supply arms to any of the Arab states directly involved in the confrontation. The significance of the U.S. decision is that after the recent developments and their effect on the various sectors of American public opinion it became necessary to adopt a balanced, impartial stand based on the adoption of some sort of equilibrium which would help the peace process and minimize the dangers of war.

Dr Usamah al-Baz added: When Egypt says that the United States is a partner in the peace process, this does not mean that it is a partner of either of the two sides. What it means is that the United States is a party participating in the peacemaking process. This requires the United States to play an active and energetic role which is not based on the will of either of the two sides to the conflict but based on an independent U.S. view of the factors of the conflict and the different stands of the sides to the conflict and the extent of the justice of these stand. The United States must also act to safeguard its interests in the area.

Concluding his statement, Dr Usamah al-Baz said that the discussions which President Anwar as-Sadat held with the leaders of the European states which he recently visited have had a direct effect on more firmly establishing the stand of these states on the policy of the Israeli settlements in the occupied territory. This is evident in the decision which the EEC Council of Foreign Ministers adopted last Tuesday rejecting Israel's policy on the settlements. Thus, there is now an identity in the European and American stands on the settlements.

EGYPT, U.S. REPORTED TO STEP UP MILITARY COOPERATION

LD171552Y Cairo DPA in Arabic 1528 GMT 17 Feb 78 NC

[Excerpt] Cairo, 17 February--Reports published in Cairo today indicate that Egypt and the United States will intensify their cooperation in the military field. These reports say that Egyptian War Minister Gen 'Abd al-Ghani al-Jamasi will visit Washington shortly for talks with U.S. Defense Secretary Harold Brown and to inspect U.S. military installations. A U.S. military mission will also arrive in Egypt next week to discuss Egypt's arms requirements with the Egyptian authorities.

Diplomatic sources here expect the United States to keep a permanent military mission in Cairo to give advice on the operation of the F-5 jet fighters which have been promised to Egypt once Congress approves their delivery.

The semiofficial newspaper AL-AHRAM believes that if Congress vetoes the sale of the jet fighters to Egypt and Saudi Arabia, the U.S. Government will cancel the whole deal--a deal which entails the delivery of 50 F-5E aircraft to Egypt, 60 F-15 aircraft to Saudi Arabia and 75 F-16 and 15 F-15 aircraft to Israel.

AL-JAMASI WILL NOT ATTEND ABU DHABI ARMS MEETING

NC191830Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1818 GMT 19 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 19 February--The MENA correspondent has learned that Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of War and War Production Gen Muhammad al-Jamasi has sent regrets saying he will not be attending the meetings of the higher committee of the Arab military industries organization which will begin in Abu Dhabi on Tuesday.

SOMALI FOREIGN MINISTER ARRIVES IN CAIRO

NC182022Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1948 GMT 18 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 18 February--Somali Foreign Minister Abdurahman Jama Barre arrived in Cairo from Jidda this evening for a 2-day visit to Egypt. During the visit he will hold talks with Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali on the latest developments in the Horn of Africa. The Somali foreign minister was met on his arrival by Sa'd 'Afrah, the under secretary of the Foreign Ministry, Ambassador Ahmad Sidqi, director of the African Department, and Abdulrahim Farah, the Somali ambassador in Cairo.

Mubarak Receives Foreign Minister

NC191902Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1843 GMT 19 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 19 February--Vice President Husni Mubarak today received the Somali Foreign Minister Abdurahman Barre, who is currently visiting Cairo. Somalia's Ambassador to Cairo Abdulrahim Farah attended the meeting.

Ghali Receives Siad Barre Message

NC191313Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 1230 GMT 19 Feb 78 NC

[Text] Cairo, 19 February--Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali received a message for President as-Sadat from Somali President Mohamed Siad Barre during a meeting held today between Dr Ghali and the Somali foreign minister, Abdurahman Barre, who is currently visiting Cairo.

The Somali minister said after the meeting that he discussed with Dr Ghali the situation in the Middle East and the Horn of Africa and the bilateral relations between Egypt and Somalia.

The meeting was attended on the Egyptian side by the director of the African Department of the Foreign Ministry, Ambassador Ahmad Sidqui. It was attended on the Somali side by the Somali ambassador in Cairo, Abdulrahim Abby Farah. The Somali minister arrived in Cairo last night on a brief visit which will last until this evening.

AL-AHRAM: EGYPT TO HOLD 'IMPORTANT CONTACTS' ON HORN

LD180222Y Cairo MENA in Arabic 2322 GMT 17 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Cairo, 17 February--In tomorrow's issue the newspaper AL-AHRAM reports that the Egyptian Foreign Ministry, beginning tomorrow and during the following days, will hold extremely important contacts with the Ethiopian representative in Egypt and with African and Arab ambassadors following Egypt's success in containing the misunderstanding that occurred with Kenya because of the plane incident.

At noon tomorrow Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, will meet with the Somali foreign minister in Cairo. Later he will fly to Tripoli in order to attend the meetings of the conference of the OAU foreign ministers.

The Ethiopian foreign minister had earlier summoned all the heads of African diplomatic missions in Addis Ababa, with the exception of the Egyptian ambassador, for a meeting with him. He accused Egypt of being a party directly involved in the incident of the two Kenyan planes. He said that this incident--which Egypt settled in a matter of hours--shows Egypt's interference in the affairs of the Horn of Africa. During his attack on Egypt, the Ethiopian foreign minister said that this situation represents an Egyptian aggression against the African countries.

In the meantime, Colonel Mengistu, chairman of the Ethiopian Revolutionary Council, took part in the campaign of attack against Egypt by alleging at a press conference that military units from Abu Dhabi, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Iran are helping the Somali forces.

Al-AHRAM says that the Egyptian Foreign Ministry all day today studied the various aspects of the situation in light of these developments. An official source has summed up these developments as follows:

1. Ethiopia has deliberately launched this campaign before the beginning of the meetings of African foreign ministers in Cairo with prior arrangement with certain Arab and African capitals with the aim of attacking Egypt.

2. Ethiopia launched this campaign immediately after the announcement that the misunderstanding that occurred between Egypt and Kenya had been contained.

3. Ethiopia resorted to a reactionary and [word indistinct] attempt to arouse division between black Africa and Arab Africa by alleging that there is an alliance among Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Iran and Abu Dhabi.

4. The chairman of the Ethiopian Revolutionary Council and his foreign minister have ignored the fact that the whole world has condemned the Soviet-Cuban-Israeli military presence which threatens the security and safety of Somalia and all Africa--not just the Horn of Africa.

AL-AHRAM publishes a statement by an official source at the Egyptian Foreign Ministry asserting that Egypt will continue to fulfill its mission in Africa and to participate in settling the conflicts that occur in it while maintaining its role in bolstering Arab-African cooperation. The source also asserted that foreign plans in Africa are trying to hinder Egypt from carrying on with its efforts and with shouldering its responsibility on the level of the Arab world, the African Continent and the nonalined states and from devoting itself to its real battle. AL-AHRAM adds that instructions to this effect will be sent tomorrow to the head of the Egyptian delegation to the conference of African foreign ministers, Egyptian Ambassador to Tanzania Ahmad Hatatah, to its diplomatic mission in Addis Ababa and to our embassies in Africa.

BULGARIA, IRAQ SIGN COOPERATION AGREEMENT

JN211211Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1025 GMT 21 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 21 February--A protocol for joint cooperation between the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and the Bulgarian Communist Party [BCP] for 1978-79 was signed here this morning. Dr Munif ar-Razzaz, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, signed the protocol for the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, and Ivan Prumov, secretary of the Central Committee of the BCP, signed the protocol for the BCP.

The aim of the protocol is to develop the relations of friendship and cooperation between the two parties and to exchange expertise in all party fields and in the field of popular action. The protocol provides for an exchange of lecturers in the party schools of the two sides for an exchange of expertise in the field of party information, and for the development of the Iraqi-Bulgarian Friendship Society.

GDR NATIONAL FRONT DELEGATION ARRIVES IN BAGHDAD

JN220848Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0740 GMT 22 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 22 February--A delegation of the GDR National Front led by Hasso Zimmermann, member of the front's Secretariat [title as received], arrived in Baghdad on a visit of several days to Iraq at the invitation of the Higher Committee of the Progressive National and Nationalist Front.

Zimmermann said that the visit of the delegation will contribute to strengthening the relations of friendship and cooperation between "our two peoples and organizations and to asserting the firm stand of the two countries in the struggle against imperialism." He stressed that the GDR people side with the legitimate struggle being waged by the Arab people and with their just question.

LEBANESE NATIONALIST MOVEMENT OFFICIAL ENDS VISIT

JN191156Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0820 GMT 19 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 19 February--Dr 'Abdallah Sa'adah, representative of the central political council of the Lebanese nationalist movement in the Arab popular conference permanent secretariat, left Baghdad today after participating in meetings of the committee formed from the conference permanent secretariat.

Dr Sa'adah expressed his thanks and appreciation for the efforts Iraq has exerted to bring about the success of the committee's work. He praised the resolutions and recommendations the committee has adopted in preparing the requisites for the trial of Anwar as-Sadat on charges of high treason. He also praised the committee's efforts in drawing up the verdict's final formula and in pointing out the (?legal) aspects of the trial.

PDRY INDUSTRY MINISTER CONCLUDES VISIT

JN210750Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0725 GMT 21 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 21 February--'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Wali, member of the Politburo of the Central Committee of the United Political Organization-National Front, minister of industry, and acting minister of planning of the PDRY, has declared that his talks with the Iraqi officials were "successful and fruitful."

In a statement at the conclusion of his delegation's 3-day visit to Iraq today, 'Abd al-Wali said that the talks emphasized the significance of action to consolidate the relationship between the two fraternal countries in the manner that serves the progressive objectives of the Arab nation.

During his visit to Iraq, the PDRY official delivered a letter to Revolution Command Council [RCC] Vice Chairman Saddam Husayn from PDRY Prime Minister 'Ali Nasir Muhammad. He also had talks with RCC member and Minister of Planning 'Adnan Husayn with the aim of expanding the scope of cooperation between the two countries in the field of implementing the development plans of his country.

COMORO ISLANDS' FINANCE MINISTER CONCLUDES VISIT

JN171722Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1710 GMT 17 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 17 February--Tadjidine Massoundi, finance minister of the Republic of the Comoros, left Baghdad this evening at the end of a weeklong visit to Iraq.

Prior to his departure, Massoundi said that an agreement will soon be signed between Iraq and the Republic of the Comoros to develop cooperation between the two countries, particularly in the fields of communications, commerce and agriculture. He added that experts and technicians from the Iraqi Education Ministry will help the Republic of the Comoros in the educational field.

Massoundi met with President Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr during his visit and conveyed to him a written message from President of the Republic of the Comoros Ali Soilih dealing with the means to consolidate relations between the two countries.

PAKISTANI AIR FORCE COMMANDER CONCLUDES VISIT

JN190948Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0735 GMT 19 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 19 February--Air Force Lt Gen Zulfiqar Ali Khan, commander of the Pakistani Air Force, and his delegation left Baghdad today at the end of a weeklong visit to Iraq.

The Pakistani Air Force commander was seen off at the airport by the major general commander of the air force and air defense, several senior officers and the staff of the Pakistani Embassy in Baghdad.

ERITREAN OFFICIAL CONCLUDES OFFICIAL VISIT

JN201030Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1015 GMT 20 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 20 February--Ahmad Nasir, chairman of the Revolutionary Council and chairman of the Executive Committee of the Eritrean Liberation Front, has declared that his talks with the officials of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party National Command were positive, fruitful and frank.

In a statement prior to his departure from Baghdad today at the end of a 6-day visit, the Eritrean official expressed his appreciation of Iraq's stands and sound understanding of the overall developments of the historic phases through which the Eritrean revolution has passed, as well as his appreciation of the fruitful support Iraq gives the Eritrean revolution in order to liberate all the Eritrean areas occupied by the Ethiopian colonialists and to achieve the goals of the Eritrean Arab people.

IRANIAN ECONOMIC DELEGATION ARRIVES IN BAGHDAD

JN211911Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1715 GMT 21 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 21 February--An Iranian economic delegation headed by (Ahmad Kors), Economy Ministry under secretary, arrived here this evening. The Iranian delegation will attend the meetings of the Iraqi-Iranian joint ministerial committee, which will be held at the beginning of next week. The committee will discuss cooperation between the two countries.

BULGARIAN WOMEN'S DELEGATION CONCLUDES VISIT

JN171813Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1735 GMT 17 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 17 February--The delegation of the Committee of Bulgarian Women under Elena Lagadinova, chairman of the committee, left Baghdad this evening at the end of a weeklong visit to Iraq. Mrs Lagadinova in a statement to the press expressed her pleasure at visiting Iraq. She said she has found several fields in which Iraq and Bulgaria can cooperate. The Bulgarian women's delegation visited the Iraqi agricultural and industrial projects and learned about the work of the General Federation of Iraqi Women in the field of social and women's activities.

AAPSO DELEGATION RETURNS FROM NICOSIA MEETING

JN212127Y Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 21 Feb 78 JN

[Text] A delegation of the Iraqi National Council for Peace and Solidarity led by 'Aziz Sharif, secretary general of the council, returned to Baghdad this evening after attending the emergency meeting of the [word indistinct] of AAPSO which was recently held in Nicosia.

The delegation was welcomed at the airport by Comrade Dr Munif ar-Razzaz, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party. The delegation is made up of Zuhayr al-Qadiri and Dr Mahdi al-Hafiz, members of the council.

TRANSPORT MINISTER RETURNS FROM JORDANIAN VISIT

JN192148Y Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 19 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Jamal Mukarram [at-Talabani], minister of transport, and the delegation accompanying him returned to Baghdad this evening after a 4-day visit to Jordan.

Jamal stated that he discussed with Jordanian officials the means to facilitate the transport of goods between the two fraternal countries, particularly those arriving via the Jordanian port of Aqaba, and ways to surmount a number of obstacles in that field.

BRIEFS

AIR AGREEMENT WITH KUWAIT--An agreement regulating air transport between Iraq and Kuwait was signed in Kuwait today. The agreement was signed on Iraq's behalf by the president of the Iraqi Civil Aviation Corporation and on behalf of Kuwait by the general director of civil aviation in Kuwait. The agreement, which was reached after 3 days of negotiations between the two sides, stipulates that the Iraqi and Kuwaiti airlines have the right to make four regular trips each [time period not specified] between the two countries, in addition to two transit trips from one country through the other. [Text] [Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 18 Feb 78 JN]

AD-DUSTUR INTERVIEWS WEST BANK MAYOR BISHARA DAWUD

JN191120Y Amman AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 19 Feb 78 pp 1, 15 JN

[Excerpts] Exclusive to AD-DUSTUR--Bayt Jala Mayor Bishara Dawud has stated that the Arab nation's financial and economic resources, including oil, minerals, funds, human potential, cultural energy and scientific resources, constitute adequate components for building the nation's intrinsic power and imposing its right and dignity on Israel and the world, which listens only to the voice of force.

Asked his opinion of President as-Sadat's initiative and speech at the Knesset on the morning of the blessed Id al-Adha, the mayor of Bayt Jala said that President as-Sadat's method constitutes a deviation from the Arab unanimity and the resolutions of the Arab summit conferences, particularly those adopted by the Rabat summit conference. He added that this method has intensified the rift in Arab ranks. He said that Arab unity is imperative and basic to entrenching Arab rights, liberating the occupied Arab territories and ending the occupation.

Mayor Bishara Dawud said: Although we support the speech, we believe that it ignored the reality of Zionist ambitions and has driven a wedge--though feeble--in the ranks of the Arab people and in the relations between the Arab and African countries. He added: There are scores of friendly African countries which had severed their diplomatic relations with Israel. What would be our position should these countries restore their relations with Israel, particularly since As-Sadat has recognized Israel and visited Jerusalem, which is still under the yoke of occupation?

Asked his opinion of the so-called self-rule, the Bayt Jala mayor said: This is an old song and a plot that has been thwarted by our people in the occupied territories who are rallying around their legitimate leadership, the Palestine Liberation Organization. We demand our rights to determine our future and develop the Palestinian character by setting up an independent Palestinian state. After the establishment of this state, we will establish relations of cohesion with our kinfolk on the east bank of the Jordan River where there are inseparable historic ties.

The Bayt Jala mayor added: We do not seek to establish an aggressive state, but we seek to set up an independent Palestinian state with humanitarian objectives. This state will cooperate with everyone for the sake of the good of humanity. This is because we hate destruction, because this area has had enough ordeals and because it is high time that the rights should return to their owners and that our people should return to their land.

COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF ARMED FORCES LEAVES FOR SPAIN

JN181455Y Amman JNA in Arabic 1405 GMT 18 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Amman, 18 February--Commander in Chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces Staff Lt Gen Zayd ibn Shakir today left Amman for Madrid at the head of a Jordanian military delegation for a 4-day visit to Spain at the invitation of the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the Spanish Armed Forces.

NATIONALIST MOVEMENT ISSUES STATEMENT OF WARNING

JN221000Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0835 GMT 22 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 22 February--The central political council of the Lebanese nationalist movement has warned against the grave imbalance in the process of reconstructing the institutions in Lebanon and against subjugating these institutions to the hegemony of a group that has no regard for the national balance. The council affirmed that this imbalance threatens the political and administrative unity of Lebanon and obstructs every step toward a serious political solution of the crisis which the country is living through.

In a statement issued last night, the council said that this imbalance is manifested in its clearest form in the army. This army is being rebuilt in a way that prevents it from being an army about which all Lebanese can be reassured and which would be capable of performing actual national responsibilities. The council's statement accused the rightwing Lebanese front of actually obstructing the comprehensive security plan under the pretext of so-called individual security [al-amn adh-dhatil]. The statement explains that this type of security can only mean the exclusion of certain areas from the security arrangements, and this is a serious political matter, revealing the design currently being implemented to consolidate the sectarian, group domination of these areas.

Speaking about the increasing talk of an imminent cabinet reshuffle in Lebanon, the statement explains that the demand to change the current cabinet under the existing political imbalance is only meant to divert attention from the actual cause of the crisis and to give the public the illusion that a government reshuffle can be an effective remedy for the problems from which the country is suffering. The statement adds that such talk also reveals the desire of those who support the plan for group domination of the country to have more positions in the government. The statement calls on the nationalist forces to move from observation and objection to a position of firm confrontation of the policy which it is intended to impose as a fait accompli on all the Lebanese.

The statement warns against the Israeli movements currently taking place on the border in south Lebanon as well as the terrorization of the inhabitants and the occupation of new positions in collaboration with a well-known Lebanese side. The statement says that this is a prelude to escalating the dispute in the border area again.

BA'TH OFFICIAL ON CONDITIONS FOR LEBANON'S STABILITY

JN212107Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 1305 GMT 21 Feb 78 JN

[Excerpts] Beirut, 21 February--Dr 'Abd al-Kajid ar-Rafi'i, secretary of the regional command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party in Lebanon, has stated that the parties which caused a deterioration of the situation in Lebanon aim at reformulating the political conditions in Lebanon so as to implement the plot aimed at the region. These parties want to influence the Arab area, particularly as concerns the Palestinian resistance, and impose a new map on it. He added: It is unlikely that the situation in Lebanon will settle down in the short term until the functional relations between certain forces in Lebanon and the present settlement projects are ended. As for the long term, we firmly believe in the inevitability of Lebanon emerging from its ordeal and in the inevitability of the triumph of the unionist-democratic will of the Lebanese people after all the potentials of the capitulatory onslaught have been exhausted.

In a statement which the Lebanese censorship authorities banned from publication in the AN-NAHAR newspaper but which was published by the newspaper JAMAHIR LUBAN, Dr ar-Rafi'i said: I do not think that the conditions and guarantees for the desired national reconciliation have been realized. As long as one Lebanese group insists that it can impose its own concept of a settlement of the crisis--hoping that continued instability in the region will be to its benefit--national reconciliation cannot be achieved in 1978.

Dr ar-Rafi'i said that the continued presence of the deterrent forces since mid-1976 does not help achieve the slightest progress toward national reconciliation and that, on the contrary, it has helped increase the intransigence and extremism of the Lebanese rightist front.

Dr ar-Rafi'i explained that the bases on which reconciliation can be built are the same according to which Lebanon lived until its ordeal in 1975, with, however, a slight change. These bases must be established in the working and planning programs as well as by the daily activities of the authorities and the citizens. These bases are the unity of the Lebanese people and territory, a central authority sovereign over all the Lebanese territory and a reaffirmation of Lebanon's adherence to the Arab nation.

Asked about his opinion on how to settle the question of the Palestinian presence in Lebanon, Ar-Rafi'i said that the ideal solution would be the implementation of the accords concluded between the Lebanese State and the Palestinian resistance.

Dr ar-Rafi'i explained that if the Lebanese parties do not come to an agreement over the question of the Palestinian presence, then this will mean a continuation of the struggle. It will also mean that one of the Lebanese parties is still insisting on imposing its own concept of a settlement of the crisis. He said that when such a party talks about reconciliation it is only trying to gain time and waiting for more propitious circumstances to impose its own concept.

On limiting the mandate of the Chamber of Deputies, Dr ar-Rafi'i said that the Parliamentary Council, despite its constitutional and democratic importance, no longer has a role in political activity and its presence or absence is not a cause for concern for the Lebanese people, particularly now that the real political power is outside the council and has no relations with it.

On whether democracy has been preserved in the council, Dr ar-Rafi'i said that his exile from Lebanon while being a deputy in the Lebanese Parliament answers that question.

INA: PRESIDENT SARKIS TO VISIT DAMASCUS

JN220956Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0944 GMT 22 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 22 February--It was reported here today that President Ilyas Sarkis will visit Damascus in mid-March 1978 or before that time. Press reports here said that Foreign Minister Fu'ad Butrus will pave the way for the meeting between President Ilyas Sarkis and Hafiz al-Asad when Butrus visits the Syrian capital this weekend. The press reports add that Butrus' mission will not be restricted to preparing for President Sarkis' visit but will also be an opportunity to conduct talks with the Syrian regime.

DEFENSE MINISTER BUTRUS MEETS ARMY COMMANDERS

NC1820102Y Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 18 Feb 78 NC

[Excerpt] Before meeting with President Sarkis today, Defense Minister Fu'ad Butrus held a long meeting with Army Commander Staff Brig Gen Victor Khuri and the command officers. They reviewed security and defense affairs.

After his meeting at the palace, Minister Butrus said: I met at the defense ministry today with the commander of the army, the chief of staff, the staff officers and the chief of the military room in the ministry. I signed some letters and we then discussed some matters concerning the ministry. Asked to assess local developments, Minister Butrus said: I believe most of the sides have played a role in the things that are happening, including the state, which has adopted a stand showing farsightedness, wisdom, self-restraint and a true desire to safeguard the country's sublime interests, the fraternal ties with fraternal Syria, the Lebanese Army and the deterrent forces. On the basis of all these considerations, matters are being dealt with within the proper framework and in a manner that will, God willing, lead to results that will meet all requirements, safeguard the national interest and harm no one. Asked whether he will meet with Syrian Foreign Minister Khaddam, Minister Butrus said: There is nothing scheduled. Asked whether he had been in contact with Minister Khaddam yesterday, Minister Butrus said: I do not have special contacts with my Syrian colleague. Contacts take place on many occasions but nothing is announced about them. It is not difficult to pick up the telephone.

JOINT FORCES CENTRAL COMMAND DISCUSSES SITUATION

JN181816Y Baghdad INA in Arabic 0800 GMT 18 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Beirut, 18 February--The central command of the joint forces in southern Lebanon held a meeting last night under Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee. The Palestinian news agency (WAFA) reports that the military situation in southern Lebanon and the moves of the rightist-Zionist alliance were discussed.

The Agency further reports that since yesterday the forces of the rightist-Zionist alliance have been sending forces to the villages of Mays al-Jabal, Blida, (Yatrun), Bayt Lif, and Marun ar-Ra's, bordering on occupied Palestine, with the aim of occupying them.

PRESS COMMENT ON AL-ASAD'S TRIP, ATHERTON'S RETURN

JN210744Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 21 Feb 78 JN

[Press review]

[Text] Under the headline "In the Margin of the Moscow Meeting," AL-BA'TH today says: It might be repetitious to speak about the strong ties linking the Syrian party and government leaders and Soviet party and government leaders at this meeting. Nevertheless, it is proper to say that current events bring the two sides together to make sure of the joint aims for which their meeting is being held. This meeting can be considered a special one in view of the importance of its timing. Moreover, the meeting comes to add another dimension to Arab-Soviet relations, which are being further consolidated despite all the propaganda of the imperialist-Zionist circles, their allies and those working in accordance with the imperialist-Zionist plans in the area and elswhere in the world. Concluding, AL-BA'TH says: The most important point of the Moscow meeting is that the two sides at this special and realistic meeting, which is being held in view of the critical phase through which the Middle East is passing, understand the facts of the changes resulting from the rapid sequence of events. Such an understanding is beneficial not only to the meeting but also to the future.

Dealing with the same subject, ATH-THAWRAH says: Syria under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad represents the steadfast bastion in the Arab world. The Arab masses rally to Syria, considering that it personifies their aspirations and expresses their hopes. The firm and principled Syrian policy has achieved important results along the road of strengthening Arab friendship with the socialist countries headed by the Soviet Union. This has been achieved at a time in which the conspiracies of the enemies of the Arab nation, freedom and progress concentrate on striking at and sabotaging this relationship. The continuation of this relationship based on solid friendship, close cooperation and mutual respect is considered a fundamental accomplishment in strengthening and supporting the struggle of the forces of freedom. It is also a main factor in supporting the Arab ability to confront the imperialist and Zionist challenges. That is why the imperialist and Zionist forces see in the Syrian revolution a danger threatening their schemes, an insurmountable obstacle in the path of their conspiracies and a force attracting the support of the Arab masses throughout the great Arab world and the support and backing of all the forces of freedom and progress in the world. Concluding, ATH-THAWRAH says: President al-Asad's visit and the talks he will hold with the Soviet leaders will serve the cause of just peace in the area and the causes of freedom and progress in the entire world.

Under the headline "The Middle East, Where to?," TISHRIN comments on Alfred Atherton's new shuttle trips and says: Recent statements made by high-ranking U.S. officials such as Carter, Brzezinski and Vance give an impression of the U.S. administration's great confidence in its ability to implement its plans for the Middle East this year. In justifying their optimism, the U.S. officials base their opinion on the As-Sadat regime's merger with the covert and overt, local and regional, U.S. machinery used to implement long-term U.S. schemes.

TISHRIN adds: It is no secret that imperialism has not yet given up hope of restoring its influence and domination in lost areas by means of neocolonialist methods which have developed and become more cunning and skillful.

It seems that the recent developments in the Middle East, which have been accompanied by a kind of stagnation in the revolutionary drive that was in high gear in the fifties and early sixties, have revived the hopes of imperialism and Zionism. These two consider such hopes realistic and justified. The new imperialist-Zionist onslaught on the area constitutes the tangible evidence of these hopes.

TISHRIN Comments on Al-Asad's Visit

JN2007l4Y Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0435 GMT 20 Feb 78 JN

[From the press review]

[Text] In its editorial headlined "A Visit of Exceptional Importance," TISHRIN today says: It can be logically said that leader Al-Asad's visit to the Soviet Union which will begin today is of exceptional importance. In any political analysis or strategic evaluation, this visit cannot but be thus described in view of the traditional relations of friendship linking Syria with the Soviet Union. The exceptional importance of the visit is due to the complicated phase through which the Arab struggle is passing, which in turn is due to a group of factors which almost upset all equations of the struggle. It has become too dangerous to deal with these factors in accordance with the political rules for the past phase. Special delicacy and clear and comprehensive vision are required to understand the new and transient conditions of the current Arab struggle and its objectives. The Arab struggle is thus on the threshold of a completely new phase, requiring from friends a new stand and an understanding response consistent with the character of the phase. Thus the attitude toward Syria, which is the base and vanguard of Arab struggle, becomes an attitude toward the issue of liberation and struggle.

TISHRIN adds: It is a political axiom that Syria is now the heart of Arab struggle because it embodies the Arab challenge and all the schemes are focused on it. Damascus now is the target because it is the front which accepted and will accept all the imperialist challenges. Syria is the first line of defense against which pressure is being brought to bear with a view to crushing it because Syria is the conscience and the will of a giant nation. This in brief is the equation which governs the Arab area after As-Sadat's visit to Israel and the evil alliance which will be announced. This is the equation which gives leader Al-Asad's visit to the Soviet Union exceptional importance. The Soviet friends undoubtedly understand fully all the factors of this equation.

NORTHERN LEBANESE BORDERS OPENED TO TRANSIT TRUCKS

JN181409Y Damascus SANA in Arabic 1205 GMT 18 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Tripoli, Lebanon, 18 February--Favorable reaction continues on the decision made by His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad to open the northern Lebanese borders to transit trucks heading to the Arab countries. Iskandar Gabriel, governor of the northern Lebanon district, expressed his deep thanks and that of the inhabitants of the northern district and the Tripoli inhabitants to President al-Asad for this generous gesture. Gabriel stated he will invite the economic and industrial personalities in Tripoli to visit President al-Asad and Syrian officials to express their profound gratitude for this gesture. Gabriel said that this step confirms the feelings of understanding, solidarity and joint interests between the Lebanese and Syrian peoples. On the other hand, businessmen's and exporters' circles also warmly welcomed this decision, which will contribute to increasing commercial activity, particularly in Tripoli port.

INDUSTRY MINISTER RETURNS HOME FROM NEW DELHI

JN181416Y Damascus SANA in Arabic 1210 GMT 18 Feb 78 JN

[Excerpt] Damascus, 18 February--Industry Minister Shutaywi Sayfu and his delegation this morning returned to Damascus from New Delhi at the conclusion of an 8-day visit to India at the invitation of the Indian industry minister. Sayfu told the SANA correspondent that during the visit he signed the agreement on technical and scientific cooperation between the two countries. The agreement also provides for the exchange of expertise between the two countries in industrial fields, such as fertilizers, textiles and weaving, steel, oil and phosphates, as well as vocational training and industrial and agricultural complexes.

SYRIA TO HOST NEXT CONFRONTATION CONFERENCE

JN192022Y Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 19 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Syrian Information Minister Ahmad Iskandar Ahmad has announced that the third conference of the Arab states opposing President as-Sadat's initiative will be held in Syria. The Syrian minister, who made this announcement in a statement published in the Lebanese magazine MONDAY MORNING, did not specify the date of this conference. Minister Ahmad said that the visit which President Hafiz al-Asad will pay to Moscow tomorrow is in response to an official invitation from the Soviet leaders and aims at strengthening relations between the two countries. Speaking about Syrian-Iraqi relations, the Syrian minister said that there has been no change in the situation since the second summit held in Algiers by the Arab states opposing President as-Sadat's initiative.

SYRIAN-ROMANIAN ECONOMIC TALKS RESUME IN DAMASCUS

JN181438Y Damascus SANA in Arabic 1222 GMT 18 Feb 78 JN

[Text] Damascus, 18 February--The second round of talks between the Syrian Arab and Romanian delegations was held at 1300 today at the prime minister's office. The Syrian Arab side was headed by Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs Jamil Shayya and the Romanian side was headed by Deputy Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Romania Emil Draganescu. The two sides held the first round of talks last Monday.

Talks Conclude

LD202102Y Bucharest AGERPRES in English 1930 GMT 20 Feb 78 LD

[Excerpts] Damascus, 20 Feb, AGERPRES--The third session of the joint Romanian-Syrian government commission of economic, scientific and technical cooperation concluded on February 20 in Damascus. Emil Draganescu, member of the Executive Political Committee of the CC of the RCP, deputy prime minister of Romania; and Jamil Shayya, member of the National Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, deputy prime minister in charge of economic matters of Syria, signed the protocol of the third session.

In the addresses made on the occasion, the heads of the two delegations expressed satisfaction at the results of the session, appreciating them as a fresh and important step ahead toward strengthening the economic and technical-scientific cooperation between the two countries. The firm wish of the parties to further act for the translation into life of Presidents Nicolae Ceausescu's and Hafiz al-Asad's recommendations on the development on multiple planes of the bilateral relations was emphasized. A government protocol for 1978 was also signed on trade exchanges between Romania and Syria.

LIBYA

AL-QADHDHAFI DENOUNCES AS-SADAT'S PEACE INITIATIVE

DW210902Y Hamburg DER SPIERGEL in German 20 Feb 78 pp 120-127 DW

[Wolfgang Gust and Adel S. Elias interview with Al-Qadhdhafi "in a field south of Tripoli," date not given]

[Text] SPIEGEL: Mr President...

Al-Qadhdhafi: I am not president...

SPIEGEL: What are you, then?

Al-Qadhdhafi: I am the secretary general of the Libyan People's Congress and, hence, I am speaking on behalf of my people. After the people had seized power presidents and ministers were abolished.

SPIEGEL: Well, then, Mr Secretary General, who is your worst enemy, Israel's Prime Minister Begin or Egypt's President as-Sadat?

Al-Qadhdhafi: Both of them are equally my enemies. But our worst enemy is the disunity of the Arab nation. The more disunited the Arabs are, the weaker they are.

SPIEGEL: Egypt's President as-Sadat is traveling about the world to canvass support for his peace initiative in the conflict with Israel. You are getting together with other Arab heads of state to protest against this peace initiative. What do you have against As-Sadat's peace plan?

Al-Qadhdhafi: The Arab masses, from the gulf to the Atlantic, are rejecting this peace of As-Sadat's. They are not against peace but against As-Sadat's method of solving this problem.

SPIEGEL: What is it that you criticize in this method?

Al-Qadhdhafi: The nature of this conflict does not allow such a method. As-Sadat's method leads into a blind alley and thus not to success. This is what Egyptian foreign minister and Egyptian ambassadors wanted to demonstrate by their resignation. We have expressed this rejection by the conferences of Tripoli and Algiers.

SPIEGEL: What do you think is the proper method if you condemn As-Sadat's method?

Al-Qadhdhafi: What it amounts to is that one insists on one's rights and does not carelessly abandon them. You cannot achieve peace by begging. Furthermore, what is at stake is not peace but the occupation of Arab territory.

SPIEGEL: It is these very territories which As-Sadat wants to recover through negotiations. What do you have against that?

Al-Qadhdhafi: As-Sadat's initiative was doomed to failure from the very first day on--but he cannot admit that he has miserably failed.

SPIEGEL: It is probably somewhat premature to state this. What do you think prompted As-Sadat to go to Jerusalem"

Al-Qadhdhafi: As-Sadat wanted to achieve only one objective, namely, the prolongation of his presidential term. He is simply power-hungry. All these shows on international television and these pompous visits to other statesmen are aimed at showing As-Sadat as the statesman which he really is not. For he quite simply is a failure. I would like to remind you that As-Sadat has stated in public that he would resign in the event his policy fails. We are looking forward to it with joy. He should have done that directly after his Jerusalem visit.

SPIEGEL: Even if it should fail, As-Sadat's initiative did have a favorable effect for the Arabs. Thanks to As-Sadat the buck has now been passed to the Israelis.

Al-Qadhdhafi: I am seeing matters differently. As-Sadat's policy has shown that the Palestinian issue cannot be solved with As-Sadat's method. The Zionist enemy contests our rights even though the whole world is recognizing these rights. As-Sadat is playing a game. If he contends that 99 percent of the cards are held by the United States, then this is nothing but a deception and a maneuver. Why does the United States not put its foot down regarding the Zionists, as As-Sadat always claims?

SPIEGEL: As-Sadat has proved to the world that at least one Arab partner wants peace. This, after all, is positive indeed.

Al-Qadhdhafi: Naturally this is positive. And I am very happy that As-Sadat ends up farther in the blind alley and that he continues to negotiate naively until he will stand there all naked in the end.

SPIEGEL: You will not leave an Arab brother standing there naked, or will you?

Al-Qadhdhafi [laughs]: No, we Arabs do not leave anybody standing in a state of undress. We will find the overcoat for him which is commensurate with his dignity.

SPIEGEL: Do you see any possibility for an arrangement with As-Sadat?

Al-Qadhdhafi: If he admits his shameful historical mistake and swears never to take such actions again, then I believe the Lord will forgive him.

SPIEGEL: And what about you?

Al-Qadhdhafi [laughs]: If the Lord forgives him, why should the Lord's subjects not be able to forgive him as well? But he must have the courage and be man enough to confess to the Arab people openly.

SPIEGEL: Libya is a rich country; Egypt is poor. Maybe it was economic difficulties, too, which forced As-Sadat to make a leap forward. Why did you not aid Egypt early enough?

Al-Qadhdhafi: We have always been prepared to pay everything for Egypt that is asked of us.

SPIEGEL: Is it true that shortly before As-Sadat's trip to Israel you sent a special envoy to Cairo and offered any help if As-Sadat would not go to Jerusalem?

Al-Qadhdhafi: This is true. But he did not want us to pay his debts but asked for military aid and support. All his military demands met with my approval.

SPIEGEL: What were these demands?

Al-Qadhdhafi: He wanted several wings of jet planes for his air force and about 300 of the most modern tanks, all of which were to be stationed in the territory of the Suez Canal as quickly as possible. I took action on this and the desired weapons slowly moved in the direction of Egypt. But suddenly he rejected this aid again on the grounds that it did not arrive as quickly as he had demanded. You just cannot extend such an assistance within a matter of 24 hours. He took this as a pretext and said that everything was running too slowly and that he would embark on his trip to Israel after all.

SPIEGEL: How do you explain this change of mind?

Al-Qadhdhafi: Oh well, you know, in the meantime we knew As-Sadat well. He thinks he is a smart bluffer. We have long seen through him. Any weapon for Egypt, no matter whence it may come, will represent a danger to Israel some time. And this is what As-Sadat wants to avoid under any circumstances. Do not be surprised if I tell you now that I have no objection if the United States arms Egypt exactly as it armed Israel. I would be very happy at that.

SPIEGEL: As-Sadat has in fact demanded weapons from the United States, but he has promised not to attack Israel with them. Perhaps he will use them for a strike against Libya?

Al-Qadhdhafi: Let us be realistic. No Western power will arm Egypt to a point where this may result in a danger to Israel, even if As-Sadat would come crawling on all fours and lick the boots of his enemy. But should he keep trying, he is in for a surprise. He will not get any weapons, and if he did get them he would not dare use them against Libya as well.

SPIEGEL: The United States will do everything to have the peace talks between the Israelis and Egyptians make headway. Perhaps the Israelis and the Egyptians will come to terms after all. What would Libya do then?

Al-Qadhdhafi: Whatever As-Sadat agrees to with the Israelis, it is not worth more than the ink on the paper. For the Israelis will not abide by such agreements just as they failed to abide by one of the numerous UN resolutions. After a few years the Arab countries will find themselves confronted with the Zionist enemy again.

SPIEGEL: Will you wait until a possible agreement between the Israelis and the Egyptians emerges or will you take action before that?

Al-Qadhdhafi: The treason has already been committed. This is incontestable. As-Sadat should not try to camouflage his crime. He not only betrayed Egypt but the whole Arab people.

SPIEGEL: Why are you rejecting peace with Israel? Some Arab countries seems to be prepared to recognize the existence of Israel.

Al-Qadhdhafi: Your question is not appropriate in this form....

SPIEGEL: By all indications, Jordan, Saudi Arabia and other Arab states would recognize Israel under certain conditions.

Al-Qadhdhafi: The question has not been posed properly inasmuch as you, by your question, hitch the cart before the horse. After all, you cannot ignore the whole situation and simply ask here: Why do you not conclude peace? First this situation must be corrected. Then we shall talk about peace.

SPIEGEL: You mean you first want to change the present political balance and then negotiate.

Al-Qadhdhafi: The true problem is not peace or war but the occupation of Arab territory and the expulsion of the Palestinians. We demand the return of the occupied territories and the return of the expelled people. If this happens, we will talk about peace.

SPIEGEL: By using the term return, do you mean Israel's withdrawal to the borders of 1967?

Al-Qadhdhafi: First, Egypt must get back its territories which have been occupied since 1967. This is Egyptian territory recognized under international law, and the Israelis have no right to remain on this soil even for an hour. The same holds true for the Golan Heights, for they are an inalienable part of the State of Syria.

Second, the Palestinian people must have the right and the possibility to live in its homeland. The proper question is: Where should the Palestinian people live? And my answer is: In its homeland.

SPIEGEL: Could you visualize a Palestinian state consisting of the Gaza Strip and western Jordan?

Al-Qadhdhafi: In no case: the maximum that the Palestinian people would be prepared to accept are the 1948 partition decisions of the United Nations.

SPIEGEL: Even if it is completely unrealistic, let us suppose Israel would withdraw to the borders of 1947. Would Libya recognize Israel then?

Al-Qadhdhafi: Then a new situation would have been created which you must recognize.

SPIEGEL: You would then recognize Israel?

Al-Qadhdhafi: No, I do not mean the recognition of Israel. I consider Israel a colonialist product of World War II. Historically, geographically and politically the world knows only Palestine. Even the holy books speak only of Palestine. The word Israel is nothing but a political expression meaning as much as Rhodesia which was set up on the ruins of former Zimbabwe.

SPIEGEL: Would not you at least on principle grant the Jews the right of possessing a state in the Mideast?

Al-Qadhdhafi: We believe that Palestine belongs to the Palestinians.

SPIEGEL: And who are the Palestinians?

Al-Qadhdhafi: They are the Arabs of Palestine and the Oriental Jews. They alone have the right of living in Palestine. Those, however, who have come there after the end of the British mandate over Palestine, have no right to live there. They are nothing but mercenaries, such as the mercenaries of the crusades or the mercenaries in Zimbabwe.

SPIEGEL: Most Palestinians probably would recognize Israel if Israel agreed to the existence of an independent Palestinian state, consisting of west Jordan and the Gaza Strip.

Al-Qadhdhafi: That did not happen and everything else is just rumors and speculations. Even if the Palestinians accepted something like that, it would be only for tactical purposes to get some ground under their feet and order to achieve the liberation from the river (Jordan) to the sea.

SPIEGEL: So you do not believe that some day there might be a Palestinian state next to Israel?

Al-Qadhdhafi: We realize that Israel never will accept an independent Palestinian state. It would mean that the Palestinians would get an area from which they could fight for the rest of their Palestinian homeland. The creation of a Palestinian state would mean the beginning of the end of the artificial structure of Israel.

SPIEGEL: Is PLO chief 'Arafat of the same opinion? He has turned his back on As-Sadat and is now fully on your side.

Al-Qadhdhafi: My belief in Yasir 'Arafat is unshakable. 'Arafat has committed no treason in the past and he will not in the future either. Yasir 'Arafat showed to As-Sadat that the way on which As-Sadat has embarked was not the right one. So As-Sadat is losing the right and legitimacy of speaking in the name of the Palestinian people.

SPIEGEL: As-Sadat can speak in the name of the Arabs?

Al-Qadhdhafi: As-Sadat is just authorized to negotiate about Sinai. If he states something else it is pure bragging. The whole world recognized the PLO as the only legitimate representative of the Palestinians. Those who want to solve the Palestinian problem must talk to the PLO representatives.

SPIEGEL: Not necessarily. As-Sadat wants to get the negotiations with the Israelis to such a point that the Jordanians can join in later on.

Al-Qadhdhafi: If Jordan will do that and play that game, Husayn will lose his throne.

SPIEGEL: It seems to us that Libya maintains such a radical stance particularly because it is at a safe distance. The farther away a country is from Israel, the more radical it frequently is.

Al-Qadhdhafi: How is that? All wars with Israel have been waged by its neighbors and not by Libya.

SPIEGEL: Libya and Algeria joined the front of rejection against Israel, two states which do not border on Israel. From where do you take the right to criticize Egypt?

Al-Qadhdhafi: Egypt is a confrontation state. Libya and Algeria always have been the strategic hinterland. In all wars between Egypt and Israel these two countries have been the supply bases for Egypt. Therefore we can strengthen or weaken the situation of Egypt. We should not be taken for granted. Without us Egypt cannot decide on peace or war.

SPIEGEL: Egypt does not want war with Israel but peace.

Al-Qadhdhafi: It will have to wage war against Israel, whether it likes it or not.

SPIEGEL: Since Egypt is out at the moment--do you think Syria will be in a position to wage war alone against Israel?

Al-Qadhdhafi: I do not doubt that. The key to war or peace with Israel is now held by the Syrians.

SPIEGEL: There was talk that you would support the Syrians with $1 billion. Is that right?

Al-Qadhdhafi: We did not discuss a certain amount, but I committed myself to help Syria with all means. I assure you that I will fulfill this commitment.

SPIEGEL: Will you send Libyan troops to the Syrian front?

Al-Qadhdhafi: Syria does not need Libyan soldiers; it has enough of its own people under arms.

SPIEGEL: Did you commit yourself to help the Palestinians too?

Al-Qadhdhafi: Naturally, they will get every material help.

SPIEGEL: You asked Syria at the Algiers conference to give the Palestinians a free hand against Israel. Did Syria agree?

Al-Qadhdhafi: The Palestinians have given the green light for resistance actions against Israel.

SPIEGEL: Did the Syrians give them the green light?

Al-Qadhdhafi: They were given the green light.

SPIEGEL: So it is up to the Palestinians to act or not to act?

Al-Qadhdhafi: That is what I mean.

SPIEGEL: Do the Palestinians agree how the fight against Israel must be waged?

Al-Qadhdhafi: The greater the outward pressure will be, the more they will have to agree.

SPIEGEL: UN troops are stationed at the Golan Heights. They would have to be removed first before the Palestinians could attack Israel there. Or do you have Lebanon and Jordan in mind as primary bases?

Al-Qadhdhafi: The Palestinians have the right to operate from Lebanese or Jordan territories. Both regimes may not obstruct them. Otherwise they would be the losers.

SPIEGEL: Colonel al-Qadhdhafi, you consider yourself as one of the leaders of the Third World. At least in Africa, the Cubans have become serious competition for you. The Cubans first got active in Angola. Now they are fighting at Ethiopia's side in the Horn of Africa. Do you approve the fact that Cuba is getting militarily involved in African affairs?

Al-Qadhdhafi: I do not think that Ethiopia needs Cuban troops for solving its problems.

SPIEGEL: Somali authorities presented a captured Cuban to the international press.

Al-Qadhdhafi: We are against any foreign military intervention in the affairs of other states.

SPIEGEL: Are Cuban and Russian soldiers in Libya?

Al-Qadhdhafi: There are neither Cuban nor Russian soldiers on our territory. We have only military advisers.

SPIEGEL: Libya is supporting various liberation movements. According to which criteria are you doing that and what organizations are they?

Al-Qadhdhafi: Presently we are supporting the liberation movements of Zimbabwe and in South Africa as well as the Palestinian resistance movement. These are movements fighting racism, slavery, and the remains of European colonialism.

SPIEGEL: Are you also supporting such organizations as the West German Baader-Meinhof Gang?

Al-Qadhdhafi: I hear of these movements like everyone else. I never dealt with such things nor know of them.

SPIEGEL: Do you differentiate between liberation movements and terrorism?

Al-Qadhdhafi: What is terrorism? Can you tell me what terrorism is? With your question you probably are aiming at whether or not Palestinian resistance organizations are terrorist organizations? I tell you clearly: No! With such questions you in the West want to manipulate and distort the fight of the Palestinian people. The Palestinians only want to return to their homeland. Zionism rejects that and you in the West are parroting it unscrupulously.

SPIEGEL: How about planes highjacked by the Palestinians, for instance?

Al-Qadhdhafi: We are against the highjacking of planes. We have most rigid laws against air pirates. I can only hope that the rest of the world will issue similar laws. I want to stress simultaneously, however, that we are the guardians of those who are fighting for their freedom and independence. They have their certain methods and I must leave it to them to pick their methods.

SPIEGEL: Libya also is supporting the Arabistan liberation movement which claims possession of southwest Iran which is rich in oil.

Al-Qadhdhafi: We frankly adhere to the goals of the Arabistan liberation movement. We hope that the day will not be too far when Arabistan will return to the Arab nation. No problems exist between the Arab and the Iranian peoples. After the disappearance of the shah there will be no problems with Iran either.

SPIEGEL: The shah is one of your most significant OPEC partners and the supreme commander of one of the biggest armies in the Mideast. Are you not afraid he could become active?

Al-Qadhdhafi: We are neither afraid of the shah or of somebody who is even more powerful than he. Shah Reza Pahlavi is a nightmare for the Iranian people and you cannot have a people live in a nightmare forever. Sooner or later, the people will get rid of that nightmare.

SPIEGEL: Since you have come to power, you have tried several times to unite your country with Egypt. This has always been without success. Have you not been disappointed by that result?

Al-Qadhdhafi: I do not think that my attempts have been unsuccessful. Measured by the long Arab history these were only brief attempts. The seed of Arab unity was planted. Some day the seed will grow and the artificial borders will disappear slowly. Even setbacks are better than no attempts. Only in this way we will come closer to Arab unity.

SPIEGEL: Colonel Al-Qadhdhafi, we thank you for this talk.

AL-QADHDHAFI RECEIVES SUDANESE, CHAD ENVOYS

LD172112Y Tripoli Voice of the Arab Homeland in Arabic 1915 GMT 17 Feb 78 LD

[Excerpts] Brother Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, commander of the great 1 September revolution, has received the personal envoy of the president of fraternal Sudan, Ambassador Abu Bakr 'Uthman Muhammad Salih, who delivered to the brother colonel a written message from President Ja'far Muhammad Numayri. The message is fraternal and cordial.

The meeting was later joined by the delegation of the Chad Republic, which arrived together with the Sudanese envoy. It consists of Capt Gouara Lassou, member of the Chad Supreme Military Council and minister of education, Lt Col Mahmoud Abderaman, member of the Chad Supreme Military Council and minister of justice. During the meeting the Chad delegation conveyed a verbal message from Chad President Felix Malloum to the brother colonel. These direct contacts between the brother colonel, the Sudanese president and the Chad president are the result of their disturbance by foreign interference in Chad domestic affairs.

This long meeting, which was attended by the secretaries of foreign affairs and contacts and the Sudanese ambassador in Chad and brother (Taj ad-Din Muhammad Tahir) lasted over 3 hours. It was held in an extremely cordial atmosphere. All topics were discussed in a clear fraternal spirit.

The Chad and Sudanese delegations arrived yesterday evening on board a special plane and immediately held long meetings with the secretary for education and the secretary for foreign affairs.

LIBYA, SUDAN WORK TOWARD CEASE-FIRE IN CHAD

LD191530Y Tripoli JANA in English 1424 GMT 19 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Tripoli, February 19, JANA--The Jamahiriyah and Sudan are intensifying their efforts to bring about a cease-fire in Chad, JANA learned. With the presence of two members of the Chadian Supreme Military Council in Tripoli, the Jamahiriyah and Sudan have urged the Chadian Government and the Chad Liberation Front "FROLINA" to act quickly to stop the bloodshed. Positive results are expected as result of these efforts. JANA learnt that the Chad delegation was in constant touch with its capital.

LIBYAN NEWS AGENCY: CHAD CEASE-FIRE IN FORCE

LD192350Y Tripoli Voice of the Arab Homeland in Arabic 2315 GMT 19 Feb 78 LD

[Text] JANA has learned that, as a result of the response by President Felix Malloum to the cease-fire appeal, all other parties have responded to the Libyan-Sudanese joint appeal. Thus the cease-fire between the Chad parties is in force.

CHADIAN DELEGATION DEPARTS LIBYA AFTER TALKS

LD191956Y Tripoli JANA in English 1845 GMT 19 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Tripoli, February 19 JANA--The visiting delegation of Chad, comprising two members of the Supreme Military Council, Capt Gouara Lassou and Lieutenant Abderman, left here today after successful talks with the Jamahiriyah officials. Capt Gouara Lassou told JANA before his departure he greatly appreciated the stands of Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi towards the causes of African destiny. Describing these stands of Col al-Qadhdhafi as "honorable," the Chad military council member thanked the Jamahiriyah for the generous hospitality shown to his delegation.

He described the results of his visit as good and said: "We dealt with friendly relations between the Jamahiriyah and Chad." He said: During these talks we have found solution of all our internal problems so that all the citizens of Chad can live in peace and as free people. The Chad delegation was seen off by Dr 'Umar al-Maqsi, the secretary of nutrition and marine wealth.

SUDANESE ENVOY DEPARTS LIBYA AFTER TALKS

LD201112Y Tripoli JANA in English 0949 GMT 20 Feb 78 LD

[Excerpt] Tripoli, February 20, JANA--The personal envoy of President Numayri, Abu Bakr 'Uthman, left Tripoli yesterday. He told JANA before his departure that his discussions with Jamahiriyah officials were very fruitful and exceeded all expectations, mainly because of Colonel al-Qadhdhafi's positive attitude. The solution of the conflict in Chad is a concrete example of Africa's capacity to solve problems without foreign intervention.

FOREIGN SECRETARY RECEIVES MADAGASCAR FOREIGN MINISTER

LD191930Y Tripoli JANA in English 1439 GMT 19 Feb 78 LD

[Text] Tripoli, February 19 JANA--Dr 'Ali at-Turayki, the Jamahiriyah foreign secretary, received here today the Madagascar foreign minister who is leading his country's delegation to the 30th session of the OAU foreign minister's conference. Mutual cooperation and strengthening of bilateral relations were discussed at the meeting.

ATHERTON MEETS OFFICIALS; COMMENTS REPORTED

Atherton, Dayan Comment

TA211233Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 21 Feb 78 TA

[From the Midday Newsreel]

[Text] Our first topic is political: The meeting between Moshe Dayan and Alfred Atherton. Our correspondent Shalom Qital reports:

No new proposals were put forward at the meeting today, neither by Israel nor by the United States. Thus, although both sides are talking about a good and useful meeting, there is still a long way to go before a joint statement of principles is worked out, particularly on the Palestinian issue. The United States speaks about legitimate rights for the Palestinians and about their participation in the determination of their own future. This is a text which is also closer to the Egyptian one which demands self-determination. Israel speaks about independent administration for the Arabs of Judaea and Samaria and the Gaza Strip.

At the end of their talk neither Atherton nor Dayan had much to say beyond the fact of there being a renewal of the negotiating process. Alfred Atherton said: [begin recording]

[Atherton--in English] I've had...with the minister...we've reviewed [as heard], in particular, the status of the declaration of principles which, as I said yesterday, was one of the principal reasons for my returning to continue working on the declaration. I will be going to Cairo tomorrow to continue this process and returning here again at some point after that, so that this is going to be a continuing process of discussions. I will, incidentally, have the honor of meeting with the prime minister this afternoon at 1800 in his office in the Knesset. [end recording]

Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan told us: [begin recording]

[Dayan] We reviewed the declaration of principles and we heard initial thoughts from Mr Atherton and, as he said, I also want to repeat: I suggest that no attempt be made to push us, centimeter after centimeter, every meeting, to find out about changes and progress and so on. This is not that sort of thing. I was very happy over his return here and the fact that the negotiations are being renewed. This is the important thing that happened today, that the negotiations are being resumed. He has a meeting this afternoon with the prime minister and other ministers and then he will continue, as he said, to Cairo and Jordan and we will continue with the negotiations. As for the substance of what was said, I do not want to say anything on that. [end recording]

Begin Discusses Talks

TA211911Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 21 Feb 78 TA

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Begin said, after the meeting with the U.S. assistant secretary of state, that he proposed that the deliberations of the Political and Military committees be resumed. Mr Begin confirmed that the Israeli proposal for the declaration of principles is the same as that submitted to Mr Atherton by Israel during his previous trip to our region. The prime minister said that Israel expects to receive on Friday a written document including Egypt's proposal for the declaration of principles. Then, the prime minister said, it will be possible to compare the two documents. The prime minister said that Alfred Atherton brought him the warm wishes of Secretary of State Vance. According to Begin, the wishes prove that Israel's reaction to a certain remark made by Vance did not cloud, nor will it cloud, the relations between the two countries.

POST Assessment

TA220638Y Jerusalem POST in English 22 Feb 78 p 1 TA

[By diplomatic correspondent David Landau]

[Excerpt] Alfred Atherton's resumed shuttle mission got off to a ponderous and not especially promising start yesterday in Jerusalem, with the U.S. mediator conferring at length with Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan and his aides and later with Premier Menahem Begin and other key policy-makers. Atherton and his team of three officials will fly to Egypt today and plan to return here before the weekend.

The assistant secretary of state, soon to be formally appointed President Carter's special Middle East mediator, was even more reticent than usual in his public statements after the meeting here. But ovservers noted that the word "progress" was conspicuously absent from his pronouncements. Atherton indicated that he expected a lengthy shuttle, without any dramatic breakthrough at this early stage at any rate. Both Atherton and Dayan urged newsmen not to expect specific situation reports after every meeting. "It's not that kind of process," Dayan explained.

Apparently there has been no movement on the deadlocked "Palestinian clause" in the hoped-for Israel-Egypt declaration of principles. Israel's last proposal, submitted through Atherton some weeks ago, still remains unanswered, and the Israeli ministers yesterday were not prepared to reconsider it before Cairo has even responded.

Atherton at this stage is not pushing a U.S. compromise formula and will not do so until he has elicited and assessed Egypt's current thinking.

American sources said the Atherton mission should be seen as preparatory to Premier Begin's visit to Washington in the middle of next month. The assistant secretary and his team intended to stay in the area until then; and they hoped to be able by then, the sources said, to submit to President Carter a very clear and precise picture of what gaps still remain.

Probably, Atherton will put forward an American compromise formula, based on President Carter's "Aswan declaration," shortly before the Carter-Begin Washington summit, so that Carter can press its merits directly upon the Israeli leader. The formula calls for the Palestinians "to participate in the determination of their own future."

Atherton himself said yesterday that U.S. "ideas" could be "helpful at a certain stage."

Yesterday's talks were not exclusively confined to the text of the proposed declaration of principles. The assistant secretary sought to engage the Israeli side in a discussion of Jordan joining the peace process if and when such a declaration is achieved.

Egypt has become increasingly insistent, in recent weeks, on the need for Jordanian participation. According to some assessments Egypt's position today is that a resumption of the political negotiations with Israel is actually contingent upon Jordan's coming in too. Atherton and his aides will visit Jordan early next week, and will also call at Riyadh and Damascus.

Press Comments

TA220650Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 22 Feb 78 TA

[From review of the morning press editorials]

[Excerpt] DAVAR writes that it seems anyone expecting quick results from Atherton's mission stands to be disillusioned.

No change is to be expected before Prime Minister Menahem Begin's visit in Washington. The paper adds that the courageous appearance of Senator Jacob Javits testifies that despite the erosion there is still a chance that the dangerous development in U.S. policy may be checked. One proviso for this is, of course, that the Israeli Government ceases helping our enemies and discontinues steps providing ammunition against Israel. It goes without saying that it had better adopt, at its next meeting, clear decisions regarding the establishment of settlements.

'AL HAMISHMAR says it is important that, until the meeting between Israel's prime minister and the U.S. President has taken place, the harmful settlement activities be discontinued. On this point a crucial decisions is to be expected in the upcoming Cabinet meeting, which will end both the discussion on this issue and the contest between the reticent line of 'Ezer Weizman and the adventurous line of Ari'el Sharon.

SHE'ARIM holds that the government should be warned not to be conciliatory about matters pertaining to our security and absolutely not accept the proposals for Israel's security offered by President as-Sadat.

The Jerusalem POST says it appears now that the moderates in the cabinet, who are led by 'Ezer Weizman, outnumber the extremists, who are headed by Moshe Dayan. However, all of Mr Begin's remaining authority will be required to implement a decision to discontinue settlements in the course of peace talks. If such a decision is to be of value, it must be clear and unequivocal, the sort of communique that brought about the protest for Shilo is the last thing this country needs.

PERES DISCUSSES HUSAYN'S ROLE IN PEACE TALKS

TA211506Y Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 21 Feb 78 p 1 TA

[By Knesset correspondent]

[Text] President as-Sadat will delegate responsibility for the Palestinian issue to Husayn if Jordan's king joins the negotiations with Israel--this impression from his meeting with the Egyptian president in Salzburg was conveyed by Labor Party chairman, MK Shim'on Peres, at a meeting of the Alinement Knesset faction.

Mr Peres evaluates As-Sadat's position in Egypt as strong. The commando operation in Cyprus to release the commandeered airplane, Mr Peres noted, is an indication of the Egyptian president's political strength and it is better to exaggerate his strength than to understate it. Peres said that the negotiations begun with Israel would continue and not conclude without results. If the Alinement were in power, the political negotiations would be approaching their successful culmination, Peres said.

DMC VOICES OPPOSITION TO SETTLEMENTS AT THIS TIME

TA212020Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 21 Feb 78 TA

[From the Evening Newsreel]

[Text] The Knesset faction of the Democratic Movement for Change today called on the government not to establish, under the present circumstances--as long as the peace talks continue--additional settlements. Today, after three meetings, the faction ended a comprehensive politcal discussion. In additional decisions it calls on the government to make every effort to renew the direct peace talks between Israel and Egypt. It does, however, rejects the ultimative conditions presented by As-Sadat to Israel.

The faction has also decided to strengthen its representatives in the Cabinet for the continuation of their action in the spirit of the DMC's platform. Our correspondent in the Knesset, Zevi Lidar, reports on the conclusion of the discussion:

The deputy prime minister, Professor Yadin, believes that at this stage of the negotiations the settlements damage Israel's status in the eyes of world public opinion. Nevertheless, Professor Yadin, who concluded the political discussion in his party, made it clear that the real dispute with Egypt revolves around two other problems: the Rafah approaches and granting the right of self-determination to the West Bank residents. The deputy prime minister also disagreed with the opinions heard yesterday in the faction to the effect that Israel has reached the end of the road regarding its relations with the United States. He said, however, that the Americans are angry and cannot understand how Israel is unready, even at a time of peace with Egypt, to give up Yamit or any other settlement in the Rafah approaches.

The head of the faction, Mk Amnon Rubinstein, said in the discussion that the government in its behavior, has erased many of the advantages inherent in its peace plan. The settlements and actions in the Rafah approaches have, in his opinion, caused Israel grave damage in the eyes of world public opinion.

Mk Mordekhay Algarabli said that the DMC must reexamine its participation in the government but that this reexamination must not be carried out only according to foreign and security interests. In his opinion, it is also important that the extent of the DMC ministers' influence in social and economic spheres should also be examined.

Hawkish views were also heard in the discussion from Mk Binyamin Halevi. In his opinion, the discussion of the settlements should be part of the discussion of Israel's defense borders. The arms deal with Egypt and Saudi Arabia has again highlighted the importance of our control over Sharm ash-Shaykh and Qidmat Sinai.

The conclusions were accepted by all. The faction is, however, divided about the nature of the action to be adopted by the Cabinet members. The faction ministers headed by Professor Yadin are in favor of quiet action within the government, action which, in their opinion, will be very effective. A group of Knesset members headed by Shemu'el Toledano, who is an extreme opponent of the settlement policy now, has a different opinion on this matter.

[Toledano--recorded] We are of the opinion that a war for influence on world public opinion is preferable now since an atmosphere must be created against that approach [settlements]. This may be preferable to this or that cautious decision. So, in my opinion, it is more important to appear in the communications media, to explain that it is impossible to continue this way. This is unacceptable--I talked with various public, foreign and local bodies. This is unacceptable. These settlements and everything pertaining to them should be stopped. If the government makes a different decision, I believe that the DMC council should discuss the new reality. The DMC council has adopted an antisettlement position and if the government decides in favor of the continued existence of these settlements, along the lines favored by Ari'el Sharon, the council will have to reconsider.

BEGIN TELLS CARTER DAYAN, WEIZMAN WILL ACCOMPANY HIM

TA211722Y Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 21 Feb 78 TA

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Menahem Begin informed President Carter that the foreign minister and defense minister will accompany him on his trip to the White House next week. Our political correspondent Shalom Qital learned that this was included in a message sent by the prime minister to Wasnington this morning. Mr Begin explains the participation of Ministers Dayan and Weizman in the trip by saying that they are the chairmen of the negotiating committees with Egypt and took part in the Ismailia summit.

EXPLORATION FOR OIL CONTINUES NEAR AT TUR

TA192205Y Jerusalem Domestic Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 19 Feb 78 TA

[Text] Oil has been found at the 'Alma 3 site near At Tur and pumping equipment brought to the site. This week the Neptune Oil Company will begin work at another drilling site, 'Alma 4. The joint production capacity of 'Alma 2 and 3 is 12,000 barrels of oil per day. This oil will begin to flow to tankers in the middle of March. The tankers will take the oil to Elat.

It was decided to stop the offshore drilling near Al 'Arish. No discoveries were made in the drilling to justify continuing the search for oil in the region. The foreign company was told that the government will no longer keep the offshore drilling rig there.

EGYPTIANS HARASS SHIPS EN ROUTE TO ELAT VIA SUEZ CANAL

TA201237Y Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 20 Feb 78 p 8 TA

[By Bezal'el Rubin]

[Text] Egyptian authorities are heaping more and more difficulties on ships passing through the Suez Canal enroute to Elat.

The harassment consists of searches and meticulous examinations of ships' documents, and especially of questions, such as: "Why were you in Elat so often and what were you doing there?" These searches often last longer than 24 hours, making the ship's officers and crew irate.

The Egyptians add a further difficulty to the passage of these ships, when the authorities cancel a previously set time and place in the convoy for the ship, which then has to wait until another convoy is assembled.

Searches are also undertaken of the crews quarters and the deck is subjected to a most thorough examination, something that was never done on any ship before. The searches and meticulous examinations are made before entry into the canal at Port Said and they last many hours.

This was related yesterday by the captain of the Taiwan freighter "Union Evergreen," a ship which arrived at Elat harbor yesterday, having come from the port of Ashdod through the Suez Canal. The captain said he had been asked a number of times what he had previously done in Elat, what his cargo had been and the reason for his voyage.

The "Union Evergreen" is a Chinese refrigeration ship, leased by the "Sefinot" Company (a partnership between Koor Industries and Ike Aharon Witz), which sails on the Elat-Far East route. About 2 months ago the ship sailed with a cargo of citrus from Ashdod to the port of Trieste. The vessel has now reached Elat and is due to deliver citrus shipments to Iran, if the citrus export deal with Iran is renewed.

HA'AREZ SCORES CYPRUS STANCE ON AAPSO TERRORIST INCIDENT

TA211152Y Tel Aviv HA'AREZ in Hebrew 21 Feb 78 p 11 TA

[Editorial]

[Text] The two Arab terrorists who murdered Yusuf as-Siba'i, Egyptian writer and journalist, were brought to trial in Cyprus yesterday, accused of murder and of kidnaping hostages. At least this one objective has been accomplished in the wake of the Egyptian commando raid, which was designed to seize the two murderers, but was frustrated due to a clash with the Cypriot National Guard.

The Government of Cyprus, which is fretting over Egyptian interference and over Egypt infringing on its sovereignty, should not expect sympathy from nations to whom national sovereignty is equally dear, but who at the same time deem protection from terrorism to be a national and humane duty, the discharge of which is not to be prevented by any materialistic considerations.

Not only have the Cypriot authorities failed to prevent the entry of the terrorists to the island and failed to prevent them from carrying out their conspiracy, but they submitted to the terrorists' demands immediately after the dastardly assassination of one of Egypt's chief representatives at the Afro-Asian Peoples Solidarity Organization conference. They put a plane at the disposal of the assassins and let them escape justice with 11 hostages.

This is no path for a government to choose which demands to be recognized as a rightful member in the family of nations, and which also expects to be supported in its conflict with another nation. The Cypriot Government, however, went even one step further: After the plane, which it put at the terrorists' disposal was forced to return to Larnaca, it agreed to issue Cyprus passports to the terrorists, thereby obtaining the release of the hostages--after which the fresh-baked "Cypriots" were due to be let off scot free.

A government behaving in this way makes itself a partner of the terrorist movement. It had better not complain that it was about to be humbled by the Egyptian Army, while all the time it had been offering hospitality to Arab terrorist organizations. The Egyptian operation may have been deficient professionally, but this is not enough to justify condemning it on the grounds of international morality, which requires terrorism to be fought and terrorists to be punished.

Egypt's prestige was damaged in the wake of the abortive raid. The Government of Cyprus on the other hand, will have to appease Egypt because of the Cypriot responsibility for the murder of one of Egypt's more important personalities. Had Cyprus seen to peace and security within the boundaries of its sovereignty in the first place, a great deal of bloodshed could have been avoided. Experience teaches that sovereignty can come to harm when governments subscribe to terrorism or when they do not dare to counter it with means of their own: after Uganda and Somalia, it is now the turn of Cyprus.

DAVAR COMMENTATOR ON SUCCESSION STRUGGLE IN BEGIN CABINET

TA171121Y Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 17 Feb 78 p 13 TA

[Nahum Barne'a commentary]

[Text] By the time the Cabinet does right by the nation--the nation will have gotten fed up with doing right by the Cabinet. [paragraph continues]

Never has the status of any Israeli Cabinet become so eroded as that of the Begin Cabinet over the 3 months since As-Sadat's visit. This is an erosion nobody enjoys--in Israeli politics there are now no victors, only defeated and frustrated heroes--but there are many losers. The main loser is the chance for peace.

We will, of course, need more time to understand the historic importance of what has happened. It may be that the crisis through which the Cabinet is now passing is the precursor of a surge forward. In contrast to the Rabin Cabinet, which after several months in office found itself on a road from which there was no return, Begin still has many possibilities open. There are additional differences between the two cabinets, but the results of the crisis are similar. Avraham Schweizer of HA'AREZ called this process "Begin's revisionism." He should perhaps have added: also a return to the war of the successors, as occurred in the time of Golda Meir.

There were three factors which tended to weaken the Begin Cabinet from the beginning. The first, the prime minister's illness, forced several of his ministers to plan for the situation after his resignation; secondly, the general disintegration of the political establishment. In the absence of real parties and durable personal and political loyalties, the atmosphere of everyone at war with everyone, which typified the Rabin Cabinet, had to harm the Likud Cabinet as well. Thirdly, the division of interests and the power struggle which are created almost automatically by putting a minister at the head of a bureaucracy and an influential pressure group. What was sufficient to make for a common camp while being in the opposition is not sufficient when the struggle is for real power, for budgets and the right to participate in the process of determining policies. When a whole corps of speakers and heads of departments and advisers do the best they can to increase the funds available to a minister at the expense of the other ministers, then wars among the Jews are an unavoidable phenomenon.

These weaknesses were a hump on the Cabinet's back even before it was established. They were obscured, however, as a result of Begin's quick seizure of control of his Cabinet and the concentration of policymaking in his hands. The impression of Begin's control was so strong that fears arose of one-man rule or a presidential regime. (The weakness of the Cabinet and of its head do not necessarily contradict attempts to maintain a one-man rule. Both of them can appear together.)

More than anything else, the Begin Cabinet profited by its good luck. The West learned to accept Begin after a hostile attack, bordering on hysteria, by the press of several countries. The process of acceptance was, of course, bound up with compliments and courtesies toward the prime minister. Afterward came the As-Sadat visit, and this spilled over some of its brightness onto Begin. Begin played the game very well. But the success of the game did not depend only on him. It demanded keeping up a constant supply of good news to the nation of Israel. Regrettably, that was impossible.

We do not yet know everything about Begin's methods of working or his ways of thinking. We know that he decides alone and consults with his ministers only when he feels like it. Such a method depresses and humiliates the senior ministers. Before long, in spite of Begin's great war against leaks, they will begin to explain themselves to the public. An explanation by one minister drags after it a counterexplanation and then we have a war of leaks.

In Golda's time Yigal Allon and Moshe Dayan used up their strength against each other. They excluded Golda from the fight because they did not see her as a competitor. This is also beginning to happen in the Likud Cabinet. Begin has a mandate to go on standing at the head of the Cabinet for as long as he and the public want. [paragraph continues]

But the first signs of a war of the successors are there. The Dayan and Allon of their time are likely to be replaced by Arik Sharon and 'Ezer Weizman. The facts in Sinai carried out by Sharon and frozen by Weizman were a sign of this.

If Begin is angry over the war of succession going on under his nose, he does not show it very much. Maybe he even takes a certain pleasure, that of dividing and ruling, over the struggle between ministers. It is difficult to assume that he does not understand what this war is doing and, even more, what the Cabinet's deceitful policy in the settlements affair is doing to the image of his Cabinet in the country and in the United States.

Begin once told Yizhaq Sadeh that his lack of interest in the details of activities during the underground period led to catastrophes. There is the impression that, as prime minister, Begin is following the same path he condemned Yizhaq Sadeh for following or, in a comparison more sympathetic to him, that of Ben-Gurion. The peace program, for example, was not worked out seriously in all its details. The question of the free passage of Arabs from Sinai to Israel was not even agreed on--in the event the Israeli proposal to leave the Rafah approaches as an open buffer zone between the two countries is accepted. The same goes for the settlement programs, about which it is difficult to believe that Begin agreed to several of their most childish details.

Perhaps Begin does not want to know the details because when policy is based on leading astray, the fact of having such knowledge puts him in a position of being a partner to the crime. This is how Ben-Gurion behaved with regard to a series of issues which his cabinet and his party found to be uncomfortable. One of the differences is that of public atmosphere. While the Israeli press in Ben-Gurion's years of glory made a distinction between him and the questionable acts of his Cabinet, today's press is in the grip of a craze of suspicions of the Cabinet. Under such pressure, not knowing does not get Begin off the hook, it only strengthens the impression that his Cabinet is weak.

There is no issue on which the Cabniet is closer to an internal stalemate of the sort which immobilized the Rabin Cabinet than on the question of the settlements. We do now know what Begin really thinks beyond the "declarations of war" he made to the United States the day before yesterday on this issue. We do know that the Cabinet in its debates swings between the fear of making settlements and the fear of not making them and there is nobody to decide. The result is a following of labyrinthine paths which place the Cabinet and its leader in a questionable light. What Begin perhaps regards as a fantastic trick is interpreted in th rest of the world as a sacrifice on the altar of weakness. Squinting and winking cabinets are considered to be cabinets which are not capable of conducting negotiations.

The advantages noted by both the Americans and the Egyptians in the Begin Cabinet in the beginning--its internal room to maneuver, without an opposition on the right, and the ability to conclude negotiations with a single person--are fast disappearing. The feeling of discomfort surrounding the status of the negotiations at the moment, which, if I am not mistaken, is common to both hawks and doves, is combined with the severe impression made by the U.S. campaign of punishments directed against Israel. The fact that Egypt has been and will be linked with Israel in all supplies of U.S. weapons is a very severe punishment for Israel, perhaps harder than the very fact of the sale of the weapons itself. The political statements by Carter and Vance give such punishmen' a political status. It is already impossible to say in Israel: "They wouldn't dare to do that to Begin."

AFGHANISTAN

PRESIDENT DAUD LEAVES FOR VISIT TO YUGOSLAVIA

LD211426Y Kabul in English to Europe 1130 GMT 21 Feb 78 LD

[Excerpts] President Mohammad Daud left Kabul by air for Belgrade for an official and friendly visit at 0710 today at the invitation of Marshal Josip Broz Tito, president of the Federal Socialist Republic of Yugoslavia.

The dignitaries accompanying the president on this trip are Prof Wafiyyollah Sam'i, the minister of justice; Mr Mohammad Khan Jalallar, the minister of commerce; Mr Wahid Abdollah, the minister in charge of foreign affairs; Mr Abdossamad Ghaws, the political deputy minister of foreign affairs; Mr Mir Shameseddin, the chief of protocol of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Brigadier General Abdol-Hamid, aide de camp; Mr Abdol Ali Solayman, director of the Department of Rights and Treaties; Mr Mohammad Sediq Saljeqi, director of the second political department; Mr Mohammad Merza (Tama), director for economic and international relations; Mr Abdol-Ahad Naser Ziai, director of the Department of Information; Mr Ahmad Zia Yosof, director of the Department of Studies and Scrutiny; Mr Abdollah Yahya Tarzi, deputy chief of protocol of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Lt Col Mortaza Qol, aide de camp for the air force.

REPORT ISSUED ON ASSASSINATION OF PLANNING MINISTER

LD192200Y Kabul in Dari to Europe 1230 GMT 19 Feb 78 LD

[Excerpt] The confessions of Mohammad Marjan, the assassin of the late Ali Ahmad Khorram, the former minister of planning, (?who is the agent) of a major and treacherous conspiracy and assassination plot against our national leader and a number of the country's ministers, revealed the traitors and enemies of the republic revolution in the following manner:

A clarification of the motive behind the assassination of the late Khorram and the shameful aims of the conspiracy of Mohammad Marjan was given as was previously promised. After the completion of investigations, a source in the public prosecution office of the Ministry of Justice ?said the following) about the confessions of the traitor Mohammad Marjan and his link with a group of reactionaries:

Mohammad Marjan, the son of Gholam Sakhi, resident of the Shegay village of Nangarhar Province, a teacher of the women's lycee of Kondoz, who was arrested during his attempt to escape on [words indistinct] November 1977 in Sayd Nur Mohammad Shah Mena, confessed during interrogation that, in violation of conscience, honor and the duty of service to the country, he deliberately chose, against the higher interests of the country and the public security, to serve the aliens and the alien-worshippers, and in collaboration with a number of other reactionaries and traitors like himself, embarked upon the implementation of this treacherous and disgraceful conspiracy.

The source added: Marjan confessed that he exceeded the bounds of propriety and has spent 31 years of his life in this way, and eventually in 1976 secretly and illegally traveled abroad in order to acquire instructions and treacherous training against the interests of security and well-being of the country, in violation of the values incorporated in the constitution of the Republican Government of Afghanistan from a number of national traitors like Golbodin, Wakil A'zam and others; and there he established close contact with the aliens through treacherous alien-worshippers.

He underwent training in order to prepare for his future terrorist operations, and he carried out terrorist activities which were entirely financed, according to his own confession, (?by) the traitors and promised to commit all forms (?of violence) and terrorism against the homeland and the national interests. He reaffirmed on his departure and return to the country on 21 March 1977 to execute [words indistinct].

The source added: After his return, the traitor Karjan went to take up his job in the Imam Saheb District of Kondoz Province and there he collaborated with a number of other traitors whose names and identity are recorded in the investigation files. Consequently, on instructions from the mercenaries and traitors who lived abroad, he waited until 6 November 1977. On that date, Golbodin, another national traitor who is related to the self-styled group of Ekhwanis [an off-shoot of the Moslem Brothers] and who lived abroad in hidingin connection with the aliens, was sent to Imam Saheb of Kondoz by Wakil Mohammad A'zam, an old patron of Mohammad Marjan and who had earlier escaped abroad in collusion with a number of reactionaries and bands of (?established) terrorists. In Imam Saheb they held a meeting with the underground leader Golbodin and planned the preliminaries of a treacherous conspiracy. The names of the persons who took part in this treacherous gathering have been given by Marjan, and after their arrests and the investigation, most of them have confessed to their crimes.

The source said the following on the basis of the investigation and confessions of the persons involved in the conspiracy:

On the instruction of the traitor, Golbodin, Mohammad Marjan, together with Mohammad Bashir and a number of other traitors went from Kondoz to Ghani Khel on 13 November [words indistinct] and there they held a meeting with Wakil Mohammad A'zam who had come there secretly in order to take part in the planned meeting. At this meeting, a detailed and treacherous plan was drawn up by these enemies of the security and true sons of the homeland, and the assassin Mohammad Marjan and his collaborators were instructed first to enter the presidential palace by means of the (?official) car of the late minister of planning and then to assassinate the leader of the revolution and founder of the republic.

According to Mohammad Marjan's confession, the choice of the planning minister's car for entry to the presidential palace was made because the ministerial cars could at any time enter (?the presidential palace) for official work purposes. And in case this plan could not be implemented, the minister of planning was to be assassinated. The assassination of the planning minister was itself a part of (?the shameful conspiracy) of the national traitors. [passage indistinct]

INDIA

DESAI ADDRESSES JANATA ON EVE OF PARLIAMENT SESSION

BK1916017Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 18 Feb 78 BK

[Text] The prime minister has said the climate for cooperation with the neighboring countries is very good. Mr Morarji Desai was addressing the general body of the Janata Parliamentary Party in New Delhi today. He said India would like to go in for technical collaboration with other countries on specific projects on mutually beneficial terms. We are working in a direction to have friendship with all our neighbors on the basis of equality, he added.

Referring to the recent visit of the external affairs minister, Mr Vajpayee, to Pakistan, the prime minister said it has been very successful in strengthening Indian-Pakistani amity.

Mr Desai told the members that India's views on disarmament and the nuclear nonproliferation treaty are being increasingly appreciated in international circles. He has been invited to open the UN conference on disarmament beginning on 23 May. Mr Desai said many heads of state have begun to realize the need for morality in politics to remove global tension.

VAJPAYEE COMMENTS ON U.S. URANIUM, PAKISTANI VISAS

BK211001Y Delhi ISI in English 0837 GMT 21 Feb 78 BK

[Text] Minister for External Affairs Vajpayee said in Hyderabad on February 20 that there were differences on the question of atomic energy being used for peaceful purposes between India and the United States.

Vajpayee, who was addressing a press conference, said that after the recent legislation by the U.S. Congress, it was incumbent on the United States authority to stop the export of enriched uranium to such of those countries which were not prepared to accept full safeguards.

As far as the Tarapur station was concerned, he said it was a contractual obligation. It could not therefore be altered unilaterally with retrospective effect.

He said replying to a question that there was scope for negotiations on the subject and "negotiations are in fact going on". Prime Minister Morarji Desai had even offered to go to Washington, he added.

The external affairs minister said that India would like to go very far in the direction of removing the visa system between India and Pakistan. "But it is for Pakistan to set the pace," he said.

He said there were families which remained divided in the two countries. Members of such families would like to visit each other with kith and kin. It was thus a humanitarian question.

India, he said, had liberalised passport and visa facilities and had offered to Pakistan to open their consulate in Bombay if India got a similar facility in Karachi. Now there was delay in getting a visa at both ends, he added.

More than 200 visas per day were being issued by the Indian office in Islamabad, but in Delhi it was less than that, he said, in reply to a question.

Vajpayee said he was prepared to send more staff to Islamabad so that more visas could be issued, but housing was a problem there. Islamabad was a newly built capital and many members of the Indian Embassy were now sharing accommodation.

He said Pakistan had permitted India to construct its chancellery and offices.

PAKISTANI AGRICULTURE ADVISER ARRIVES FOR VISIT

BK201607Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 20 Feb 78 BK

[Text] Dr Amir Mohammad, adviser to the Pakistan Government on food, agriculture and cooperatives, arrived in New Delhi this evening on a 10-day visit. The agriculture minister, Mr Barnala, received him at the airport.

Talking to newsmen, Dr Mohammad said that India and Pakistan can benefit from each other's experience in the field of agriculture.

CHINESE TRADE DELEGATION VISITS MADRAS

BK210935Y Delhi ISI in English 0840 GMT 21 Feb 78 BK

[Text] Pi I-ming [name as received], the leader of the three-member Chinese trade delegation currently visiting Madras, on February 20 told the members of southern India Chamber of Commerce that the aim of the delegation was to explore the possibilities of improving the relations in the fields of import and exports, reports SAMACHAR.

The delegation held discussions with MMTC [Metals and Minerals Trading Coporation] and STC [State Trading Corporation] officials and would be visiting Bellary to study the quality of Bellary Hospet iron ore. The team visited the Madras harbour and saw the mechanical iron ore handling faciltiies, and a member of delegation said that they were impressed with the facilities.

PAKISTAN

PRC FRIENDSHIP DELEGATION ARRIVES IN ISLAMABAD

BK210830Y Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu 0800 GMT 21 Feb 78 BK

[Text] A delegation of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries has arrived in Islamabad on a week's visit to Pakistan. The delegation is led by the president of the association, Mr Wang Ping-nan.

The delegation was welcomed by the adviser on foreign affairs, Mr Agha Shahi, and the PRC ambassador in Pakistan, Mr Lu Wei-chao. The delegation was to call on the adviser on foreign affairs this morning.

During its stay in the capital, the delegation will also meet with the chief of army staff and chief martial law administrator. The delegation will also visit Peshawar, Lahore and Karachi.

Meets Agha Shahi

BK211531Y Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 21 Feb 78 BK

[Text] The eight-member delegation of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, now visiting Pakistan, met with the adviser on foreign affairs, Mr Agha Shahi, in Islamabad today. The delegation is led by the association president, Mr Wang Ping-nan. The meeting lasted for about 2 hours. The Chinese ambassador to Pakistan, Mr Lu Wei-chao, was also present during the meeting.

Immediately after the meeting the delegation had a panoramic view of the capital city from (Madzila) Hills.

NEPAL

KOIRALA ACQUITED IN ONE OF SEVEN CASES

BK221032Y Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 22 Feb 78 BK

[Text] In Katmandu the former prime minister, Mr B.P. Koirala, has been acquitted by the special tribunal on the charge of treason in what is known as the (?Dharan) bobm case. The judgement is, however, subject to confirmation by the Supreme Court.

Mr. Koirala is facing charges of treason in five more cases and a sedition charge in another.

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